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MIDTERM MUSCLES



President Barack Obama speaks about the economy, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014, at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. Obama is looking to frame the closing economic arguments of the midterm campaign.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

In Chicago, Obama Touts Economic Successes

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama issued a full-throated defense of his economic record and a tart rebuke to his Republican opponents in a speech in Chicago on Thursday

that sought to rally voters behind Democrats ahead of the November congressional elections.

"This isn't some official campaign speech or political speech," Obama said at Northwestern University, although his words indicat-

ed otherwise. The president said that "every single one of" his economic policies would be on the ballot in November, and added that he and the Republicans have laid out "starkly different visions for this country."

The address, coming just after Obama attended a closed-door fundraiser for the Democratic governor of Illinois, Pat Quinn, was an effort to claim credit for economic successes since he took office. But the speech was also an

acknowledgment that the financial challenges facing many Americans are preventing him and other Democrats from benefiting politically from the recovery.

Continued on Page 3

Turkey approves military operations in Iraq, Syria

SUZAN FRASER

DIAA HADID

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey's parliament gave the government new powers

United States has been bombing the Islamic State group across Syria since last week and in neighboring Iraq since early August. Turkey's parliament had

cross into Syria to help Syrian Kurdish forces there, or permit the deployment of coalition forces' drones, Ergil said.

Turkey could also allow its

year before parliamentary elections — a time when the Turkish government is unlikely to take bold military action — and provoked a lively debate among law-



Lawmakers debate before Turkey's parliament approve a motion that gives the government new powers to launch military incursions into Syria and Iraq and to allow foreign forces to use its territory for possible operations against the Islamic State group, in Ankara, Turkey, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014.

(AP Photo)

Thursday to launch military incursions into Syria and Iraq, and to allow foreign forces to use its territory for possible operations against the Islamic State group.

The move opens the way for Turkey, a NATO member with a large and modern military, to play a more robust role in the U.S-led coalition against the Sunni militants. However, Turkey has yet to define what that role might be.

The vote came as the extremists pressed their offensive against a beleaguered Kurdish town along Syria's border with Turkey. The assault, which has forced some 160,000 Syrians to flee across the frontier in recent days, left the Kurdish militiamen scrambling to repel the militants' advance into the outskirts of Kobani, also known as Ayn Arab.

The assault came despite renewed U.S.-led airstrikes in the area overnight. The

previously approved operations into Iraq and Syria to attack Kurdish separatists or to thwart threats from the Syrian regime. Thursday's motion, which passed 298-98, expands those powers to address threats from the Islamic State militants who control a large cross-border swath of Iraq and Syria, in some cases right up to the Turkish border.

Asked what measures Turkey would take after the motion was approved, Defense Minister Ismet Yilmaz said: "Don't expect any immediate steps."

"The motion prepares the legal ground for possible interventions, but it is too early to say what those interventions will be," said Dogu Ergil, a professor of political science and a columnist for Today's Zaman newspaper.

The motion could allow Iraqi Kurdish fighters to use Turkey's territory to safely

air base in Incirlik, some 160 kilometers (100 miles) from the Syrian border to be used by allied planes or for logistics.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki welcomed the Turkish move and said the U.S. was looking forward to strengthening cooperation between Turkey and the rest of the global coalition seeking to defeat the Islamic State group. She declined to say what specific assistance Turkey might be asked to contribute, saying officials were "now discussing what particular role they may play."

The U.S. envoy tasked with coordinating the global coalition, retired Marine Gen. John Allen, was to meet with officials in Turkey over the next week, Psaki said.

Two opposition parties voted against the motion, which comes less than a

makers.

"Will you be sending the (ground) troops which Obama did not want to send?" opposition legislator Osman Koruturk asked during the debate.

In Syria, Ismet Sheikh Hasan, a senior fighter, said the Kurdish forces were preparing for urban clashes in Kobani in a desperate attempt to repel the militants. "We are preparing ourselves for street battles," Hasan said. "They still haven't entered Kobani, but we are preparing ourselves."

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an activist group tracking the Syrian conflict, reported that Islamic State fighters were, in some cases, just hundreds of yards from Kobani on its eastern and southeastern side. The militants were about a mile away on the southern side of town. □

Putin shrugs off West's sanctions and the damage

V. ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday shrugged off the negative impact of Western sanctions, saying they will only encourage Russia to build closer ties with China, India and Latin America.

Speaking at an investment forum, Putin described the sanctions as "utter silliness" that hurt Western business and offered an opportunity for others to expand in the Russian market.

Putin said the sanctions, imposed by the United States, the European Union and others over Russia's role in the Ukrainian crisis, violated basic principles of the World Trade Organization and inflicted lasting damage to the global economy.

The ruble has fallen sharply as the sanctions have taken hold, imposing severe restrictions on top Russian banks and companies to borrow on Western capital markets. Capital flight is expected to top \$100 billion this year as jittery investors dump Russian assets.

Putin said that the Kremlin has no plans to introduce any currency restrictions or capital controls, adding that Russia's Central Bank has enough instruments to ensure the nation's financial stability.

He said that the government plans to expand trading in rubles with China and other nations to help lower risks.

Putin acknowledged that Russia's ban on most Western food in retaliation to Western sanctions has fueled inflation, which is expected to reach 8 percent this year, but voiced hope that prices will stabilize.

He promised that the state will be ready to provide support to those sectors and companies hit by sanctions, but will move cautiously to avoid undermining the nation's financial health. □



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JPMorgan claims breach affected 76M households

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A huge cyberattack against JPMorgan Chase & Co. this summer has compromised customer information for about 76 million households and 7 million small businesses, the bank said Thursday. The New York-based bank said that names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of customers were stolen from the company's servers but only Chase customers who use certain websites or mobile apps were affected. Those websites were Chase.com, JPMorganOnline, Chase-Mobile and JPMorgan Mobile. JPMorgan said there's no evidence that the data breach included account numbers, passwords, Social Security numbers or dates of birth. It also said it has not seen any unusual customer fraud stemming from the data breach.

JPMorgan Chase, the nation's biggest bank by assets, has been working with law enforcement officials to investigate the cyberattack. The bank discovered the intrusion on its computer servers in mid-August and has since determined that the breach began as early as June, said spokeswoman Patricia Wexler.

"We have identified and closed the known access paths," she said, declining to elaborate.

The company also disabled compromised accounts and reset passwords of all its technology employees, Wexler said. □

In Chicago, Obama touts economic successes

Continued from front

"It is indisputable that our economy is stronger to-

slowed. That upbeat economic message has been particularly challenging in recent weeks, with the public

more opportunity," said Kristen Kukowski, a spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee. Obama has worked all year



President Barack Obama waves as he walks across the South Lawn on return to the White House in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014, after speaking in Illinois about the economy.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

day than when I took office," the president said. "At the same time, it is also indisputable that millions of Americans don't yet feel enough of the benefits of a growing economy where it matters most - and that's in their own lives."

Warning that "I'm going to be giving you a lot of good statistics," Obama noted that since he took office, the employment picture has brightened considerably, with 10 million jobs created. Deficits have fallen steeply, he said, from nearly 10 percent of gross domestic product to near 3 percent, and the growth in health care costs has

mood souring as the nation's attention focused on terrorism, the offensive against Sunni militants in Iraq and Syria, the Ebola outbreak and security lapses by the Secret Service. Republicans called the president's Northwestern speech an attempt to improve Democrats' chances on Nov. 4.

"Americans are done with the photo-op speeches and empty promises and are going to elect a new Republican Senate that can start growing America's economy instead of Washington's economy, so that hard-working Americans see better wages and

to spotlight his administration's economic successes, but the speech Thursday sought to place the argument in a broader context. In that vein, Obama focused on the United States' global leadership, using muscular language aimed at competitors and adversaries abroad.

"When alarms go off somewhere in the world," the president said, "this is who the world calls - America. They don't call Moscow. They don't call Beijing. They call us. We welcome that responsibility and leadership. That's who we are. That's how we roll."

He also echoed the "Yes

we can" slogan from his 2008 campaign, returning often to the phrase "Let's do this" as he pitched an agenda that included an increase in the minimum wage, equal pay for women and men and the enrollment of 6 million children in preschool by the end of the decade.

Obama criticized Republicans for advocating more tax cuts for the wealthy while blocking his economic priorities. He accused them of failing to present policy alternatives.

"A true opposition party should now have the courage to lay out their agenda," Obama said.

Aides to House Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio noted that he laid out a five-point plan last month for reviving the economy, including an overhaul of the tax code, spending cuts, legal and regulatory changes and improvements to education.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the minority leader, whose re-election race is one of the most closely watched in the nation, said Americans are suffering under Obama's policies.

"This administration has thrown a wet blanket over the economy with its focus on spending, borrowing, taxing and regulating, and those things clearly haven't worked," McConnell said. "We need to move in a different direction."

But Obama said corporate balance sheets were healthier than ever, despite warnings that his approach would hurt business. □



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Poll: Half think US at high risk of terror attack

DEB RIECHMANN

JENNIFER AGIESTA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Half of Americans think there's a high risk of a terrorist attack on U.S. soil, yet only a third are closely following news of U.S. airstrikes against Islamic extremists in the Middle East.

Most people do think the airstrikes are a good idea. Two-thirds of those questioned for an Associated Press-GfK poll say they favor the offensive by the U.S. and allies. And, despite, more than a decade of costly war, about one-third favor going beyond that and putting American military boots on the ground in Iraq or Syria.

President Barack Obama says he has no plans to send ground troops to either country. A little more than a third say they are opposed to the idea, and about one in four say they neither favor nor oppose it. That's thousands of miles (kilometers) away. What about concern at home? According to the poll, most think there's a high risk of a terrorist attack inside the United States, 53 percent, though just 20 percent call it an "extremely high risk." An additional 32 percent say the nation is at moder-

ate risk of a terrorist attack and 12 percent say it faces a low risk of terror attacks. The poll has not asked that specific question in the past. However, the finding tracks with Pew Research

the United States. That's lower than the 73 percent that Pew found were concerned, following Sept. 11, that another attack was imminent and about the same as the 58 percent

Obama is handling the threat from terrorism and specifically the threat posed by the Islamic State group. About half approve and about half disapprove of Obama's actions to



Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey, right, accompanied by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, brief reporters about ongoing operations against Islamic extremists in Syria and Iraq during a news conference at the Pentagon. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Center data from July indicating that concern had ebbed somewhat since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. This summer, the Pew survey said 59 percent of Americans were "very" or "somewhat worried" that there would soon be another terrorist attack in

who were worried about another attack after the April 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. There hasn't been a massive terrorist attack on U.S. soil since Sept. 11. Those in the AP-GfK survey are split on whether they approve of the way

confront the threat. Still, those figures are better than Obama's approval ratings for handling top domestic issues. Just 40 percent approve of his handling of the economy, 41 percent approve of his work on health care and 34 percent approve of the way he's handling immigration.

Douglas Dowden, 49, said he thinks the threat from the Islamic State group is overblown. He doesn't support Obama's decision to launch airstrikes.

"How many terror threat attacks happen in countries like say Spain, Italy, the U.S.? It's not that often. I have more fear of what some whack job locally is going to do — that's more of a concern to me than some potential threat from some extremist group," Dowden said. □

US 'speed trap' town disbands its police force

Associated Press

WALDO, Florida (AP) — Waldo, a tiny town in Florida has such a notorious reputation as a speed trap that the American Automobile Association erected billboards to warn drivers about it, but all that may be about to change. On Tuesday, weeks after the city's police chief and interim chief resigned due to state investigations into ticket quotas, mishandling of evidence and other issues, Waldo's City Council disbanded its police force. Officials in the town never hid the fact that citations paid for the small police force, arguing that the speeding problem was a real public safety hazard. For years motorists cruising through the 2-sq. mile (5-sq. kilometer) town have passed the AAA's warning signs. Trouble with Waldo's police department started in August, when Chief Mike Szabo was suspended amid a Florida Department of Law Enforcement probe into his alleged recording of conversations with fellow officers.

A couple of weeks later the town's interim chief, Cpl. Kenneth Smith, was also suspended after five of the department's officers told the City Council that he was mishandling evidence, taking city property for personal use and imposing a strict ticket quota. Smith and Szabo later resigned, and the department crumbled.

About half of the town's roughly \$1 million budget comes from citations, according to its budget. This helped pay for the police force. Portions of revenue from citations will still go to Waldo's coffers, but it's unclear how the city's budgeting will be affected in the future. □

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Family that hosted Ebola patient confined to home

N. MERCHANT

D. WARREN

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Four members of a family the U.S. Ebola patient was staying with were confined to their Texas home under armed

the family failed to comply with a request not to leave their apartment, according to Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins.

Texas State Health Commissioner David Lakey said the order would help en-

The family will not be allowed to receive visitors, officials said.

Authorities were also concerned about the cleanliness of the home and hired a cleaning service, Lakey said.

view with The Associated Press.

Troh said she was waiting for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collect a bag of the bed sheets and towels Thomas Eric Duncan used.

Visitors from the American Red Cross were seen Thursday bringing food to the apartment door. The North Texas Food Bank said it sent three days of cereal, tuna, produce and other supplies.

Outside the apartment, the management of the 300-unit complex in northeast Dallas was passing out flyers about Ebola to neighbors. Private security guards and local sheriff's deputies blocked off the entrance to dozens of reporters.

Apartment manager Sal-

ly Nuran said employees were power-washing sidewalks and scrubbing common areas, though she believed Duncan had not visited most of the complex in his short time there.

Elsewhere, Texas health officials expanded their efforts to contain the virus, reaching out to as many as 100 people who may have had direct contact with Duncan or someone close to him.

None of the people is showing symptoms, but public-health officials have educated them about Ebola and told them to notify medical workers if they begin to feel ill, Erikka Neroes, a spokeswoman for the Dallas County Health and Human Services agency, said Thursday. □



A young man retrieves food supplies and personal materials left by the North Texas Food Bank and the Red Cross on the front stoop of an apartment at The Ivy Apartments complex, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014, in Dallas. Dallas County officials have ordered family members who had contact with the patient diagnosed with the Ebola virus to stay inside their home.

(AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

guard Thursday as the circle of people possibly exposed to the virus widened, while Liberian authorities said they would prosecute the man for allegedly lying on an airport questionnaire. The unusual confinement order was imposed after

sure the four can be closely watched, including checking them for fevers over the next three weeks.

"We didn't have the confidence we would have been able to monitor them the way that we needed to," he said.

"The house conditions need to be improved," he said. A woman who lives in the apartment, Louise Troh, said she has been quarantined with her 13-year-old son and two nephews.

"Who wants to be locked up?" she said in an inter-

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Where the Jobs Are:

Mysteries of the recovering American job market

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just how healthy is the U.S. job market?

Despite steady hiring and falling unemployment, the question has provoked sharp debate and considerable uncertainty on the eve of the September jobs report.

Will millions without jobs who aren't looking for one eventually start looking? Why aren't companies filling more of their openings? Why can many people find only part-time work?

Much of the uncertainty flows from a big question: Does today's 6.1 percent unemployment rate, far below the 10 percent it hit in 2009, mean the job market is near full health? Or does the unemployment rate overstate the improvement?

The answers, whenever they come, could play a key role in when the Federal Reserve decides to finally raise interest rates.

"We're kind of grasping at straws," says Peter Capelli, an economist at the

Wharton Business School. "We've never seen a labor market quite like this." The government's Septem-

In the midst of a national campaign season, jobs and unemployment remain near the top of vot-

people who aren't seeking work are now receiving disability aid.

To some economists, all this

just given up looking and so are no longer counted as unemployed?

Labor Department figures show that no more than about 12 percent of the long-term unemployed are finding jobs in any given month — below pre-recession levels of about 18 percent.

But two Fed economists who studied changes over a full year found a brighter picture: Over a 12-month period, nearly 40 percent of the long-term unemployed find jobs. Only about 32 percent drop out. If many of the long-term unemployed are getting jobs again, it suggests that the Fed might keep rates ultra-low longer to try to fuel further hiring. On the other hand, if most aren't being hired, it might show that even a strengthening economy with low rates is no longer helping much.

— What does it mean that so many people — 7.3 million — who want full-time jobs can find only part-time work?

Before the recession, this figure was just 4.6 million. Levin, the IMF economist, thinks it shows there are lots more people who want additional work than the unemployment rate suggests. He estimates that the ranks of so-called involuntary part-timers are equivalent to an additional 1 point in the unemployment rate. As a result, Levin argues, paychecks aren't likely to rise anytime soon.

Some disagree. Richard Fisher, head of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, said last month that wages typically start rising once unemployment falls to the current 6.1 percent. He warned that wages may do so again, igniting faster inflation. Research by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago indicates that many of the long-term unemployed, when they do find jobs, take part-time work even though they want full-time jobs. This trend could keep the number of involuntary part-time workers elevated. □



Christine Atwell, left, with Curtis Media Group, speaks with Nicole Chambliss, a junior at High Point University, during the school's career day at the Slane Student Center in High Point, N.C. The government's monthly jobs report, to be released Friday, Oct. 3, 2014, will shed some light on questions about the health of the U.S. job market, but probably won't settle them.

(AP Photo/The Enterprise, Laura Greene)

ber jobs report, coming Friday, may shed some light on these questions. But it won't settle them.

ers' list of most important issues, according to the latest Associated Press-GfK poll. Only the economy overall and terrorism or national security were significantly more likely to be cited by people who are expected to vote.

Here are some mysteries about the job market:

— How many people who have stopped looking for work — or never started — will start looking if the economy improves further? This, perhaps more than any other question, has confounded economists.

Since the Great Recession began in late 2007, the proportion of adults either working or seeking work has sunk from 66 percent to 62.8 percent — a 35-year low. That's equal to about 7.5 million fewer people.

But a debate has raged over how many of them are waiting for the economy to strengthen further before they look.

At least half the exodus is due to retirements by the vast baby boom generation. Younger adults are now also likely to stay in school. And some jobless

means most of the dropouts aren't coming back. If so, employers will soon have to pay more because the pool of potential workers has shrunk.

Others, like David Blanchflower of Dartmouth College, think employers still regard many of the dropouts as potential hires and, partly for that reason, feel scant pressure to raise pay. Andrew Levin, an economist at the International Monetary Fund, points to surveys showing that many of those not looking for work would return for the right job.

At a news conference last month, Fed Chair Janet Yellen said she thought a "meaningful" number of the dropouts would take jobs if more were available.

— What's happened to 3.8 million people who had been unemployed for over six months but no longer are?

The decline in long-term unemployed is encouraging. But here's what we don't know: How many of them have actually gotten jobs? And how many have



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US Financial Front:

American factory orders posted record drop in August**M. CRUTSINGER**

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories fell in August by the largest amount on record, but the drop was heavily weighed by an expected plunge in volatile aircraft orders.

A key category that tracks business investment plans posted a small increase, offering an encouraging sign that factory production will sustain mo-

hicles and parts dropped 5.4 percent, but that weakness was expected to be temporary given the robust sales automakers are experiencing this year.

Orders for non-durable goods, items such as chemicals, clothing and food, edged down 0.4 percent in August following a 0.8 percent July decline. Excluding transportation, orders would have edged down a tiny 0.1 percent



Workers at the Dusky Marine factory in Dania Beach, Fla., begin to assemble one of the custom boats they built at the family owned business. Each year the company makes 50-100 fishing boats. The Commerce Department released factory orders for August on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014.

(AP Photo/J Pat Carter)

mentum in the second half of this year.

Orders declined 10.1 percent in August after a record increase of 10.5 percent in July, the Commerce Department reported Thursday. Both months were affected by swings in demand for commercial aircraft, which soared in July only to plummet in August.

Core capital goods, a category seen as a proxy for business investment, managed to rise a slight 0.4 percent in August after a 0.1 percent July dip.

Economists expect businesses to boost spending as they expand and modernize their operations. Business investment was a key source of strength in the second quarter.

Orders for durable goods, items expected to last at least three years, fell a record 18.4 percent in August. The figure reflected a 74.3 percent drop in demand for commercial aircraft. Orders for motor ve-

annual rate of 2.1 percent in the first quarter, the result of a harsh winter that cur-

tailed economic activity. Then pent-up demand by consumers and business-

es drove growth to a rapid rate of 4.6 percent in the April-June quarter. □

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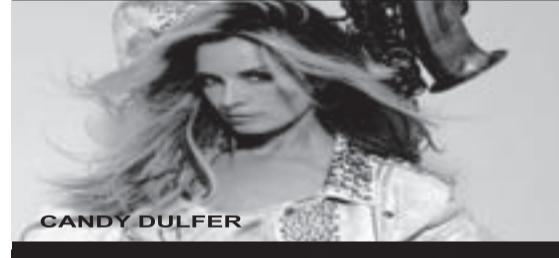
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American Living:

Thirst Turns to Desperation in Rural California

JENNIFER MEDINA

© 2014 New York Times

PORTERVILLE, Calif. - After a nine-hour day working at a citrus packing plant, her body covered in a sheen of fruit wax and dust, there is nothing Angelica Gallegos wants more than a hot shower, with steam to help clear her throat and lungs.

"I can just picture it, that feeling of finally being clean - really refreshed and clean," Gallegos, 37, said one recent evening.

But she has not had running water for more than five months - nor is there any tap water in her near future - because of a punishing and relentless drought in California. In the Gallegos household and more than 500 others in Tulare County, residents cannot flush a toilet, fill a drinking glass, wash dishes or clothes, or even rinse their hands without reaching for a bottle or bucket. Even more so than the refugees from Oklahoma who came here

fleeing the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, the people now living on this parched land are stuck.

"We don't have the money to move, and who would buy this house without water?" said Gallegos, who grew up in the area and shares a tidy mobile home with her husband and two daughters. "When you wake up in the middle of the night sick to your stomach, you have to think about where the water bottle is before you can use the toilet."

Now in its third year, the state's record-breaking drought is being felt in many ways: vanishing lakes and rivers, lost agricultural jobs, fallowed farmland, rising water bills, suburban yards gone brown. But nowhere is the situation as dire as in East Porterville, a small rural community in Tulare County where life's daily routines have been completely upended by the drying of wells and, in turn, the disappearance of



Anthony Hernandez fills barrels with non-potable water at a fire station in East Porterville, Calif. Few places have suffered from California's record-breaking three-year drought like rural Tulare County, where the drying of wells has forced some residents to go without running water for five months.

(Jim Wilson/The New York Times)

tap water.

"Everything has changed," said Yolanda Serrato, 54, who has spent most of her life here. Until this summer, the lawn in front of her immaculate three-bedroom home was a lush green, with plants dotting the perimeter. As her neighbors' wells began running dry, Serrato warned her three children that they should cut down on hourlong showers, but they mostly rebuffed her. "They kept saying, 'No, no, Mama, you're just too negative,'?" she said. Then the sink started to sputter. These days, the family of five relies on a water tank in front of their home that they received through a local charity. The sole neighbor with a working well allows them to hook up to his water at night, saving them from having to use buckets to flush toilets in the middle of the night. On a recent morning, there was still a bit of the neighbor's well water left, trickling out the kitchen faucet, taking more than 10 minutes to fill two 3-quart pots.

"You don't think of water as a privilege until you don't have it anymore," said Serrato, whose husband works in the nearby fields. "We

were very proud of making a life here for ourselves, for raising children here. We never ever expected to live this way."

Like Serrato, the vast majority of residents here in the Sierra Nevada foothills are Mexican immigrants, drawn to the state's Central Valley to work in the expansive agricultural fields. Many here have spent lifetimes scraping together money to buy their own small slice of land, often with a mobile home sitting on top. Hundreds of these homes are hooked to wells that are treated as private property: When the water is there, it is solely controlled by owners. Because the land is unincorporated, it is not part of a municipal water system, and connecting to one would be prohibitively expensive.

The Gallegos family's drinking water comes only from bottles, mostly received through donations but sometimes bought at the gas station. For showering, washing dishes and flushing toilets, the family relies on buckets filled with water from a tank set in the front lawn, which Gallegos replenishes every other day at the county fire station. □

Often, the water runs out before he returns home from his job as a mechanic, forcing Gallegos to wait for hours before she can clean.

The family has spent hundreds of dollars to wash their clothes at the laundromat and on paper goods to avoid washing dishes. Gallegos recently told her 10-year-old daughter that there was no money left to pay for her after-school cheerleading club.

The local high school has begun allowing students to arrive early and shower there. Parents often keep their children home from school if they have not bathed, worried that they could lose custody if the authorities deem the students too dirty, a rumor that county officials have tried to dismiss. Mothers who normally take pride in their home-cooked meals now rely on canned and fast food, because washing fresh vegetables uses too much water. Serrato and others receive help from a local charity organization, the Porterville Area Coordinating Council, which opens its doors each weekday morning to hand out water. □

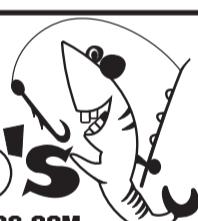
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Hong Kong leader offers limited talks with protesters

JOANNA CHUI

WENDY TANG

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP)

Hong Kong's embattled leader refused demands by pro-democracy protesters to resign Thursday, and instead offered talks to defuse a week of massive demonstrations that have grown into the biggest challenge to Beijing's authority since China took control of the former British colony in 1997.

The Hong Kong Federation of Students said in a statement early Friday that they planned to join the talks with the government, focused specifically on political reforms. They reiterated that Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying step down, saying he "had lost his integrity."

A wider pro-democracy group that had joined the demonstrations, Occupy Central, welcomed the talks and also insisted that Leung quit.

Occupy Central "hopes the talks can provide a turning point in the current political stalemate," it said in a statement. "However, we reiterate our view that Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying is the one responsible for the stalemate, and that he must step down."

Leung's comments came at a news conference held just minutes before the protesters' midnight deadline for him to quit.

"I will not resign," he said. The students had threatened to surround or occupy government buildings if Leung did not step down, and the police had warned of serious consequences if the protesters carried out that threat.

Standing beside Leung was the territory's top civil servant, Chief Secretary



Student protesters stand outside the government complex where Hong Kong's Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying's office is located, Friday, Oct. 3, 2014 in Hong Kong. Hong Kong's embattled leader offered Thursday to hold talks between his government and pro-democracy protesters, but said he will not accept their demand that he resign. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

Carrie Lam, and he asked her to arrange the talks. She said she would seek to meet with leaders of the demonstrations as soon as

possible.

"I hope both sides will be satisfied," she said. "Students had wanted a public meeting but I hope that

we can have some flexibility to discuss details."

The protesters want Beijing to reverse its decision that all candidates in an

inaugural 2017 election for chief executive must be approved by a committee of mostly pro-Beijing elites. They say China is reneging on its promise that the city's top leader will be chosen through "universal suffrage."

Leung said the authorities would continue to tolerate the protests as long as participants did not charge police lines, but urged them to stop their occupation of much of the downtown area.

"I urge students not to charge into or occupy government buildings. ... It's not about my personal inconvenience," he said. "These few days the protesters' occupation of key areas of the city has already seriously affected Hong Kong's economy, people's daily lives and government functioning." □

Red Cross office hit by shells in Ukraine, 1 dead

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) — A Red Cross worker was killed by shelling in the rebel-held city of Donetsk, the aid group said Thursday.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said Laurent DuPasquier, a 38-year-old Swiss national, died when a shell landed near the group's office in the eastern Ukrainian city. "We are deeply shocked by this tragic loss," Dominik Stillhart, the Geneva-based organization's director of operations, said in a statement.

DuPasquier had worked for the Red Cross for more than five years in Pakistan, Yemen, Haiti, Egypt and Papua New Guinea, before taking up his post in Ukraine six weeks ago.

"We understand that there were other civilian casualties in Donetsk today," Still-

hart said. "Indiscriminate shelling of residential areas is unacceptable and violates international humanitarian law."

The rebels, who have exchanged fire with the Ukrainian government forces holed up in the Donetsk airport just north of the

city, said the shelling came from the Ukrainian side. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin blamed the shelling on "terrorists." □

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ECB says keeping door open for more stimulus

DAVID McHUGH

COLLEEN BARRY

AP Business Writers

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — European Central Bank head Mario Draghi underlined the bank's willingness to step up its economic stimulus efforts with large-scale bond purchases if needed — but his comments after the bank's meeting Thursday did not seem to bring that day any closer.

Markets fell after his statements, as some investors were hoping for a stronger commitment to more stimulus. Germany's main index declined 2 percent, France's 2.8 percent and Italy's a whopping 3.9 percent. The euro rose to \$1.2654 from \$1.2630 earlier in the day, a sign currency traders are scaling back their expectations for future

monetary stimulus.

Draghi warned that the economic recovery in the 18 euro countries "weak, fragile, and uneven" and held out the eventual prospect of doing large scale bond purchases, or quantitative easing, later on if the economy gets even worse. Yet his remarks during a press conference mostly focused on stimulus programs the ECB has already unveiled in June and September and will carry out in coming months. They include ultra-cheap loans to banks and purchases of bundles of bank loans — but, so far, not quantitative easing, or QE, a more drastic measure that some investors were hoping for. On Thursday, the ECB kept its benchmark rate unchanged at 0.05 percent. It

could scarcely do anything else; the rate is almost zero and Draghi has conceded rates are as low as they can go. That is why attention has turned to unconventional steps such as a program

banks to lend more. The ECB's recent attempts to support the economy put it on a different path from the U.S. Federal Reserve, which is considering when to start raising rates

Because stimulus efforts dilute the value of a currency, the euro has fallen sharply in recent months, from \$1.39 in early May. So far, that has been one of the most significant effects



Demonstrators, one of them wearing a Pulcinella face mask, center, face police as the ECB governing council meets in Naples, Italy, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014.

(AP Photo/Salvatore Laporta)



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announced in September to buy bonds made of bundles of bank loans. The purchases, which will start this month and last two years, are meant to encourage

as the U.S. economy grows more strongly. The divergence has had strong consequences for the euro's exchange rate against the dollar.

of the ECB's record low interest rates and loose monetary policy. The lower euro will help raise inflation, currently at an alarmingly low level of 0.3 percent. □

Bulgaria: Blast kills fifteen at explosives factory

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Fifteen people were confirmed dead Thursday in a blast at an explosives decommissioning factory in northwestern Bulgaria. Civil Defense chief Nikolai Nikolov said that thirteen men and two women perished in the wake of the blast that left craters. Three others were taken to hospital with injuries. The explosion occurred

near the village of Gorni Lom, some 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of the capital, Sofia, late Wednesday. Police said smaller explosions continued for several hours. At the time of the blast, 12 workers and three people from the plant management were at the site decommissioning Greek land mines. Nikolov said the cause of

the explosions at the factory, owned by a private Bulgarian company, was probably "human error." The blast was so strong that several buildings at the plant were razed to the ground, Nikolov said, adding that the devastation at the site was so complete that "no traces whatsoever of bodies could be seen." □



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Saudi Arabia: 2 million in Mecca for start of hajj

MOKHTAR SHEHATA

BENJAMIN WIACEK

Associated Press

MECCA, Saudi Arabia (AP)

— Saudi Arabia sought to assure the public that the kingdom was safe and free of health scares as an estimated 2 million Muslims streamed into a sprawling tent city near Mecca on Thursday for the start of the annual Islamic hajj pilgrimage. Earlier this year, Saudi authorities banned people from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea — the countries hardest hit in the Ebola epidemic — from getting visas as a precaution against the virus. The decision has affected a total of 7,400 pilgrims from the three countries.

Ebola is believed to have sickened more than 7,100 people in West Africa and killed more than 3,300, according to the World Health Organization.

The hajj sees massive crowds every year from around the world gather around the cube-shaped Kaaba in Mecca as part of a five-day spiritual journey meant to cleanse the faithful of sin and bring them closer to God. All male pilgrims dress in simple, white robes as a sign of equality before God.

The kingdom has not discovered a single case of Ebola so far and is taking all measures to ensure the safety and health of the pilgrims, said Manal Mansour, the head of Saudi Health Ministry's department for prevention of infectious diseases.

"The most important precaution that (the kingdom) has taken was to restrict visas from the affected areas," she told The Associated Press.

Upon arrival to the kingdom, pilgrims were asked

to fill out "medical screening cards with data" and asked about their travels in the past 21 days, Mansour said. There were other health concerns related to the hajj earlier this year. The kingdom had to improve its anti-infection measures af-

pared to ensure a safe hajj. Saudi Arabia and four other Arab countries are taking part in U.S.-led airstrikes against the Islamic State group and al-Qaida fighters in Iraq and Syria. Militants have vowed revenge. Al-Qaida militants launched

our security readiness at all the borders of Saudi Arabia."

Pilgrim Zaid Ajaz Amanea from the United Kingdom said he felt safe.

"I don't have to fear anything from anybody because I'm coming to God's

pilgrims against politicizing the pilgrimage. He said anyone who tries to propagate political views during the hajj, which brings Sunnis, Shiites and Muslims of all schools of thought to Mecca, will be severely punished.



Muslim pilgrims pray as the sun sets at the Plain of Arafat during the annual pilgrimage, known as the hajj, near Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014. Saudi Arabia sought to assure the public that the kingdom was safe and free of health scares as an estimated 2 million Muslims streamed into a sprawling tent city near Mecca on Thursday for the start of the annual Islamic hajj pilgrimage.

(AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

ter it was hit by an upswing in the number of people who had contracted a respiratory virus known as the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in the spring. There have been more than 750 cases of MERS in the kingdom since 2012, of which 319 people died, including several health workers. Maj. Gen. Mansour Al-Turki, spokesman for the Saudi Interior Ministry, told the AP that the kingdom is also facing continuous threats from terrorists, but is pre-

a series of deadly attacks in Saudi Arabia aimed at toppling the monarchy around a decade ago, though none were directed at Mecca. No major attacks have happened in recent years during the hajj.

"We have confronted al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia and we have defeated them," Al-Turki said. "But of course at the same time being we are still considering the threat, which is a continuous threat, and therefore we have actually enforced

house," he said.

The routes for hajj pilgrims and inside the Grand Mosque housing the Kaaba have thousands of security cameras, many of them hidden. The kingdom says there are some 70,000 security personnel guarding the hajj this year. Saudi's interior minister toured hajj sites to check on their readiness over the weekend. The state-owned Saudi Gazette newspaper reported that the commander of hajj security forces has warned

The pilgrimage is a central pillar of Islam and all able-bodied Muslims are required to perform it once in their lives.

Saudi authorities said there are 1.4 million international visitors for the hajj this year. Some 600,000 pilgrims from the kingdom itself are also expected to take part.

On Thursday, pilgrims headed to Mina, about five kilometers (three miles) from Mecca, where they will spend the night in prayer and supplication. □

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Ivan, a believer makes an offering as he pours alcohol over the statues of Ismael and Elizabeth who was the girlfriend of Ismael at the pantheon of "Santos Malandros," or Holy Thugs at the General Cemetery in the Guarataro slum in Caracas, Venezuela.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

For protection: Venezuelans looking to 'Holy Thugs'

JORGE RUEDA

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— They gather in the cemetery, sometimes by the dozens, kneeling in prayer, drinking liquor and smoking cigarettes as offerings to the small statue of the long-dead robber Ismael.

Ismael is a member of Venezuela's pantheon of "Santos Malandros" — or Holy Thugs. The faithful believe these former criminals are seeking to atone for their past lives by providing protection from today's law-breakers who call on them in a country struggling with rampant crime and one of the world's highest murder rates.

The rising popularity of the cult has brought a proliferation of shops selling statuettes representing Santos Malandros, figures brandishing firearms and knives, or wearing sunglasses, jeans and colorful shirts.

Among the most popular is Ismael, whose statue

stands in the General Cemetery. Showcasing his apparent cool, a baseball hat jauntily tilts to the side, a cigar juts from his lips and a .38 revolver pokes out of his pocket.

Many people believe Ismael killed dozens of people while robbing banks and cargo trucks in the 1970s, before he was shot down by police. These days, the faithful revere him as a sort of Robin Hood, saying he stole from the rich and protects those among the poor who are besieged by crime.

Ismael "stole food, meat, medicines for all the needy people of the neighborhood," said Ivan Eduardo, who cares for the statue in the cemetery.

These mystical figures are part of the two-century-old cult tradition known as Maria Lionza, the Venezuelan variation of Santeria — the faith that began in Cuba when African slaves blended Yoruba spiritual beliefs

with Roman Catholic traditions. It's named for a beautiful Indian woman from the western state of Yaracuy who is considered to preside over various courts of spirits in Venezuela.

The Roman Catholic Church opposes the veneration of Santos Malandros, but it long ago gave up trying to stamp out the practice. And with the surge in violent crime in recent years, more and more Venezuelans seem to be turning to the "holy thugs" for help in dealing with a hazardous life that forces them to hurry home at the end of the workday and take refuge behind iron bars.

Himib Almandoz, an author who has written about religious syncretism and archetypes in Latin America, said there had been a rebirth of primitive, syncretic cults in the region in recent years, "above all in times of crisis, like the economic, political and social crisis we are living through." □

Alleged Beltran Leyva cartel boss caught in Mexico town

PETER ORSI

E. CASTILLO

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Hector Beltran Leyva, the purported head of a feared drug gang allegedly run by his family, became the fourth brother to fall when soldiers grabbed him while dining at a seafood restaurant.

No shots were fired during the operation in San Miguel de Allende, a popular enclave for foreigners and artists in the central state of Guanajuato, federal criminal investigations chief Tomas Zeron said Wednesday night.

With the arrest, Mexico's government landed another high-profile blow against the country's cartels. At least nine capos have been killed or captured by security forces since 2009, including elusive Sinaloa cartel boss Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, one of the world's most wanted men.

Mexican authorities have said Beltran Leyva, 49, assumed leadership of the family's cartel after his brother Arturo was killed by troops in a gunbattle in late 2009. Two other brothers are behind bars for their involvement in the cartel.

The Beltran Leyva gang terrorized parts of central Mexico for years, including Morelos state to the south of Mexico City. It declined somewhat after the brothers' arrests and killing, but the U.S. Treasury Department said last November that the cartel appeared to be reorganizing and regaining some power.

"Obviously this is not the Beltran Leyvas' organization in its strongest moment ... but it continues to be a criminal organization capable of generating localized violence in some states," Mexican security expert Jorge Chabat said.

Zeron said Beltran Leyva had adopted a "moderate profile" after becoming head of the cartel to avoid detection. An 11-month investigation determined he had made his home in the central state of Queretaro, where he passed himself off as a businessman selling art and real estate, Zeron said.

He said Beltran Leyva was tracked to San Miguel de Allende and taken into custody along with a man suspected of being involved of the cartel's finances.

Zeron said DNA tests were being conducted to confirm the suspect's identity, but it was clear the man was Beltran Leyva. He did not take questions.

"This action proves the effectiveness of the public policy of security and law enforcement to achieve the Mexico at peace that we desire," President Enrique Pena Nieto's verified Twitter account said late Wednesday.

Zeron said the investigation was carried out jointly by various security agencies but the arrest was made by the army, an institution that has come under criticism recently for the June killing of 22 suspected gang members in a town south of Mexico City.

According to the U.S. State Department, Beltran Leyva, alias "The H" and "The Engineer," was born Feb. 16, 1965, in the northern Mexican state of Sinaloa, a cradle of drug trafficking. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Aruba Is Ready For Its 8th Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival!



ORANJESTAD - As we are getting closer to October Aruba is getting ready to host the 8th annual Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival at the Renaissance Festival

Plaza. Locals as well as International visitors have geared up their plans to be concentrated around both days of the festival. The Purple Entertainment



Group has started to transform the Renaissance Marketplace area into a massive festival site. We are talking about the building of three stages for the more than 20 performing artists. On the first night of the festival Prince Royce, Grupo Gualao, Shuffle Demons, Ryan The Haret, Sazon Cubano, Weapons of Mass Destruction, N Fuzion, Kross-Hart Project, School of Music Ensemble and Alydia Wever are all set to perform. On the second night Liv Warfield & NPG Horns, Candy Dulfer, Eric Calmes & Friends, Jazzanova Dj Set, Richard

Bona Quintet, Tsunami, Down Town Dixie Society, Charles Brouwers & Chencho Kelly will be responsible for the diverse music. It is important to take note that the amount of tickets available will be limited as the performing artists are very popular and in demand under the local community as well as the visiting tourists. Tickets are all ready on sale in Aruba at Plaza bookshop, Super Food, Panaderia Es-

piga di Oro, Valero Blvd, Valero Essoville, Café de Plaza, Moomba, El Gallo Rojo, Fun Miles, Cliffix & De Palm Tours desks. For international sales www.caribbeanseajazz.com. This is a unique opportunity to enjoy great music, art and gastronomy during a fun-filled week-end for the 8th Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival 2014. For more information feel free to visit www.caribbeanseajazz.com □



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emony at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort.

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best way on the island to kick off your weekend!

THE CUTTING OF THE WATERMELON: This mini event happens on Friday during "FRANK". This watermelon is infused with alcohol. A bottle of alcohol is inserted upside down in a hole cut into the watermelon and left in the cooler for 2 days while the watermelon absorbs all the alcohol content. Sandbar then cuts the watermelon into pieces and serves it to guests for free! **FISHBOWL SPECIAL:** Every day Sandbar has a different Fishbowl Special. Your favorite drink in a fishbowl totaling 40oz. for only \$20. **2-FOR-1 SPECIAL:** Everyday starting at 9pm till 10pm Sandbar has 2-for-1 on all drinks. Saturday they also host this happy hour from 12am till 1am. Zulijma Peasch, working at the Talk of the Town Aruba hotel told us "I had fun at 'Experience Sand.' The sound was



great (not too loud). The ambiance was very sexy with beautiful waitresses that constantly checked if everything was ok with us, thumbs up for the amazing service. Karaoke was very good, funny and entertaining. The highlight of the night for me was the watermelon, never tasted something that great before! I had a lot of fun. I am definitely recommending sand bar." □



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PALM BEACH - Diane and Steven Donaghey from Natick, Massachusetts, can't seem to stay away from Tango Argentine Res-

taurant in the Arawak Garden. The couple, married for twelve years already, has visited the fabulous restaurant at least thirty times

during the past few years. Reason enough to take a 'family' picture with the Tango crew and master chef of the grill. Diane and

Steven feel like family, so that is why this family picture will be treasured forever. See you soon again at Tango, Diane and Steven! □

SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

Lewis shoots 66 to take lead in China

BEIJING (AP) — Top-ranked Stacy Lewis birdied five of her final seven holes Thursday for a 7-under 66 and the first-round lead in the Reignwood LPGA Classic. "You learn you just got to stay patient," Lewis said. "You're not going to go shoot a 66 or 65 every single day. Yeah, I want to be in the lead. That's where I want to be. I want to be in the lead coming up 18 on Sunday as well. It's a good start, but we have a long ways to go."

Lewis leads the tour with three victories and earnings of \$2,214,143. Last year, she finished a stroke behind Shanshan Feng after the Chinese player eagled the par-5 18th.

Sweden's Caroline Hedwall was second after a 67. "I'm really happy with my game today," Hedwall said. "I started off with two birdies and felt like I was on a roll there. I had quite a few birdie opportunities on the back nine and kept playing well. It was nice to finish off with a birdie as well. Just really happy. I just really like the golf course here. The greens are very nice. My key part of the game is tee to green, and suits me really well. The course has been in really nice shape."

South Koreans Sun Young Yoo and Jenny Shin were tied for third at 68.

Lewis played alongside No. 2 Inbee Park and No. 4 Suzann Pettersen. Park shot 69, and Pettersen 74.

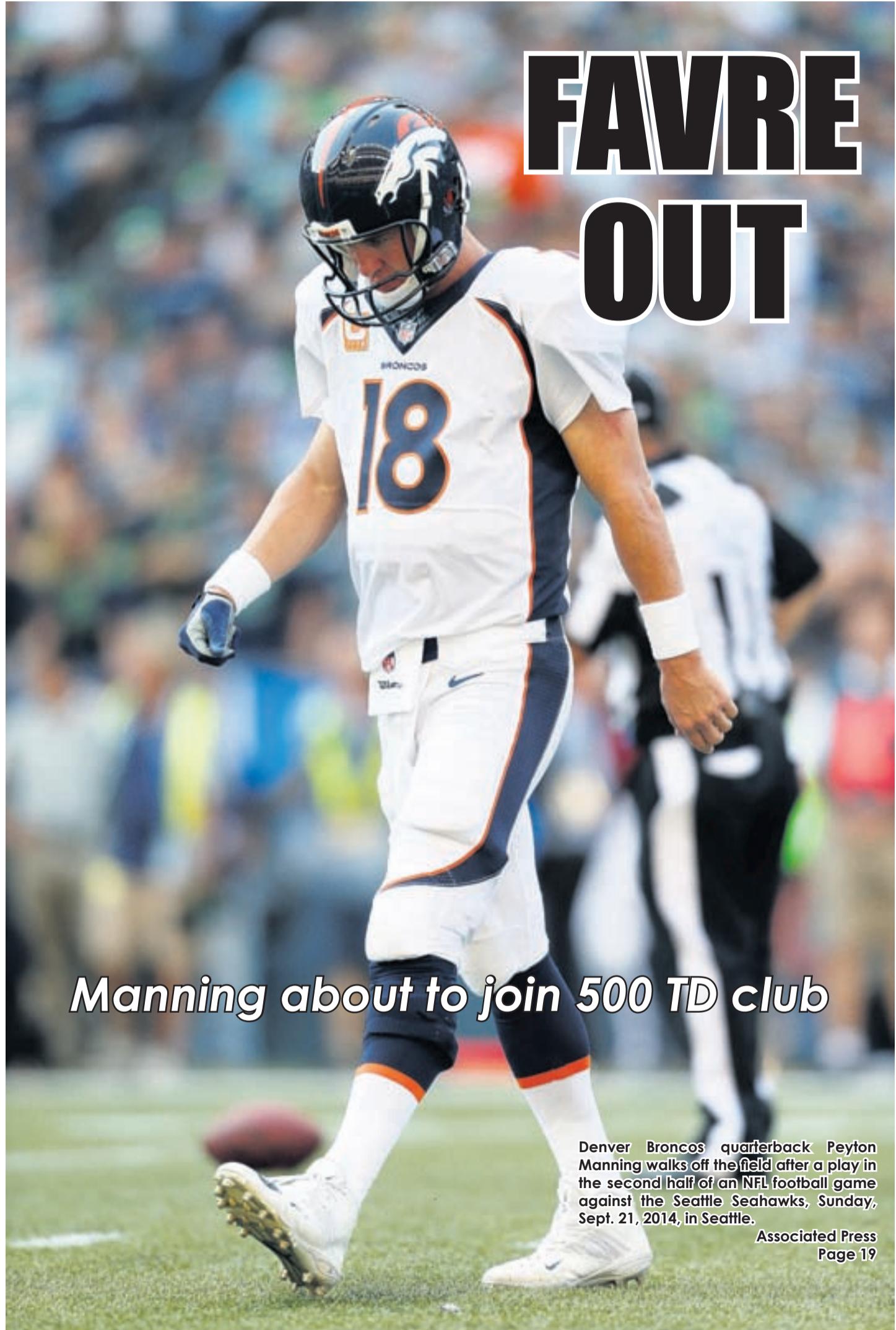
"The grouping today was fun," Lewis said. "I always like playing with Inbee and Suzann. If you play with the best players in the world, that makes you better." □

FAVRE OUT

Manning about to join 500 TD club

Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning walks off the field after a play in the second half of an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014, in Seattle.

Associated Press
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U.S. women's basketball team set to take on France



In this Sept. 15, 2014, file photo, USA's Maya Moore, right, high fives teammate Lindsay Whalen during the first half of an women's exhibition basketball game against Canada in Bridgeport, Conn.

Associated Press

DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

ISTANBUL (AP) — Maya Moore and her U.S. teammates know what's at stake now. A loss and their world championship run would be over. Standing in the way of another trip to the medal round is France, a team that handed the Ameri-

cans a rare defeat on Sept. 21 in an exhibition game. The teams will meet again in the quarterfinals of the tournament Friday night. "Naturally losing a game is going to open your eyes," Moore said. "For us, we don't want to have to be reminded of those lessons by taking a loss, but that's what happened. We're

going to make the most of it by taking those feelings as motivation going into tomorrow's game."

It would be easy for the Americans to make excuses for their 76-72 loss to France. Moore and Diana Taurasi shot a combined 4-for-23 from the field, and Brittney Griner wasn't with the team yet.

Coach Geno Auriemma doesn't buy into any of that talk.

"If you're a great team you have to figure out how to win when two of your best players aren't making shots," he said. "Can't say well we have an excuse because they didn't make any shots. You still have to find out how to win games. We had an opportunity to win that game and didn't take advantage of it. And they did."

Moore was more concerned with aspects that the Americans can control than her poor shooting night.

"We didn't have the focus and energy that was required to beat them on their home court," she said. "We definitely are excited to get another

shot at playing better and playing together and being more connected now that we've been together that much longer against a team that if they get going they can be dangerous."

The last time these teams met before France's win was in the gold medal game of the 2012 London Olympics which the Americans won by 36 points. The U.S. has won 29 straight games at the world championship and Olympics since falling to Russia in the semifinals of the 2006 worlds.

Despite the exhibition loss to France, the Americans have looked strong at the worlds. They won their three preliminary round games by an average of 42 points, including a record 75-point victory over Angola on Tuesday to close out pool play Tuesday.

"This team's been pretty good since we've been whole, our entire team's been together," Auriemma said. "That Angola game was a prime example of that. We put it all together. So it's a medal game, quarterfinal game, regardless of who we're playing

NHL promotes outdoor game in Bay Area

JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

SANTA CLARA, California (AP) — The excitement is palpable, the tickets are nearly all sold and the stadium is a technological marvel. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman only needs one more thing for the league's second outdoor game ever in California to be a success. Bettman says it needs to be considerably cooler on Feb. 21 when the San Jose

Sharks host the Los Angeles Kings at the \$1.3 billion Levi's Stadium. The league held a news conference promoting the game on Thursday on a 90-degree (32 Celsius) day.

But after watching the success of last season's outdoor game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, Bettman is confident the ice will hold up just fine more than four months from now when the game is being held. □

Guilty plea in \$7.5M Miami Basketball team fraud

ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS

AP Legal Affairs Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A man who portrayed himself as a member of a wealthy Pakistani family and was often seen driving luxury cars including a Ferrari pleaded guilty Thursday to a multimillion-dollar investment scam involving three former Miami Heat players and the basketball team itself. The government alleges that Haider Zafar defrauded players Mike Miller, James Jones and Rashard Lewis in 2013 by promising to invest millions in various business opportunities. He also received a \$1 million, three-season Heat ticket package he never paid for, according to the government.

Zafar pleaded guilty in federal court in Columbus to five wire fraud charges that each carry maximum 20-year prison sentences. That case was consolidated with another against Zafar in Columbus, where the defendant previously pleaded guilty to swindling a Washington, D.C. businessman out of \$10 million between 2008 and 2010. Zafar, currently in jail, pleaded guilty to the Miami Heat allegations to accept responsibility and move forward with his life, his attorney, Sam Shamsky, said Thursday.

Testimony by an FBI agent Thursday portrayed Zafar as a man who talked big as he persuaded the Heat players to give him millions of dollars for investments that never materialized.

Zafar boasted of \$35 million in a Swiss bank account and luxury residences in New York City and Miami and was often seen being chauffeured in a yellow Ferrari, a white Bentley and a black Escalade, said FBI agent David Fine.

Zafar persuaded the Miami Heat's vice president of sales to sell him a premium three-season ticket package for \$1 million after explaining about his "family history and influence." □

Manning about to join Favre in 500 TD club

ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colorado

(AP) — Peyton Manning's next touchdown throw will be his 500th, and he's spreading the credit around just like he does the football.

The five-time MVP doesn't like to talk about individual accomplishments.

As he approaches another milestone in a career filled with so many big moments, however, Manning took time Wednesday to reflect on all the help he's received on his 499 TD passes.

He acknowledged that yes, he looks at his TD throws and interceptions every year because if the former is high and the latter low, "that means you're getting your team in the end zone and that means you're protecting the ball. I think that particular statistic usually leads to winning football games."

"As far as the other thing, obviously, you're just trying to win this football game," Manning said. "But when asked about it, I have reflected on how many great teammates and coaches that I've been with along the way that have been a part of that. You don't throw that many touchdowns without a lot of help."

It's not just the 44 players who have caught one of Manning's TD throws, but the rest of his teammates and coaches.

"As my old center Jeff Saturday said, the only reason I've thrown that many is because I had great protection for so many years. Typical lineman speaking, especially one in the media now," Manning said. "But to tell you the truth, he's right. There are so many people that have helped me along the way."

He'll face men who made big early impressions on him Sunday when the Denver Broncos (2-1) host Arizona (3-0).

Cardinals coach Bruce Arians was Manning's first quarterback coach when Manning arrived in the NFL in 1998. And Arizona's as-



Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning (18) throws under pressure from Kansas City Chiefs defensive end Allen Bailey during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014, in Denver.

Associated Press

sistant head coach Tom Moore was his offensive coordinator during his 13 seasons in Indianapolis. The Cardinals would love to delay Manning's milestone another week, but they know as well as anyone that it's probably just wishful thinking.

"That's tough because Peyton always finds a way to get the ball in the end zone," Cardinals cornerback Patrick Peterson said. The last time Manning didn't throw a TD pass was

Nov. 14, 2010, against Cincinnati.

So, chances are No. 500 will come sometime Sunday. "He'll probably brush it off like it's just another touchdown," Denver nose tackle Terrance Knighton said. "But I know it means a lot to him."

And chances are Manning's touchstone touchdown won't come down in the arms of a receiver, either.

Tight ends Julius Thomas (five) and Jacob Tamme

(two) have accounted for all but one of Manning's eight TD tosses this season.

Newcomer Emmanuel Sanders went into the Broncos' bye last week as the league leader in catches (25) and yards (334), yet he still waiting to spike a TD toss from him — unlike Denver defensive tackle Mitch Unrein.

"It's still kind of a shock to me that I have a touchdown from Peyton," Unrein said.

Sanders can't wait to join

the list.

With 14 catches so far, Thomas jokingly asked Sanders on Wednesday if he could spare a reception.

"All right," Sanders retorted. "I'll trade you for a touchdown."

Thomas said Sanders can have No. 500 if he wants it.

"I've already got a couple milestones," said Thomas, who caught Manning's 51st TD throw that broke Tom Brady's single-season record last year. It was one of his dozen TD receptions that surpassed Hall of Famer Shannon Sharpe's team record for tight ends.

"I hope they throw it to me," said Knighton, noting that a jelly-belly lineman a few lockers down caught one.

Unrein lined up at fullback on Dec. 2, 2012, slipped into the left flat unencumbered on first-and-goal from the 1 and hauled in Manning's floater to help the Broncos beat Tampa Bay 31-23.

Manning has thrown 100 TD passes in the regular season since his arrival in Denver.

His first in a Broncos uniform was the 400th of his career and it came on a 71-yard screen pass to Demaryius Thomas. □

Cowboys' Spillman investigated in sex assault case

GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP) — Dallas Cowboys special teams player C.J. Spillman is under investigation but hasn't been arrested or charged after a report of an alleged sexual assault at the team hotel last month.

Grapevine police spokesman Sgt. Robert Eberling said Wednesday night that the alleged assault took place early Sept. 20 at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center.

The team flew to St. Louis later that Saturday, and Spillman played against the Rams the next day. He has played in all four games, including last weekend at home against New Orleans. His only tackle of the season came

against the Rams. Spillman is listed as a safety but hasn't played defense this season.

Spillman's agent, Ron Slavin, and attorney Bruce Ashworth declined to comment. The Cowboys didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment. Eberling said no other details were being released because the investigation is ongoing.

The Cowboys signed the 28-year-old Spillman on Sept. 1, two days after the sixth-year player was among the final cuts by San Francisco. The former Louisville defensive back spent most of his first five seasons with the 49ers. The alleged assault came less than 24 hours after



This June 4, 2013, file photo shows then-San Francisco 49ers safety C.J. Spillman at an NFL football training camp in Santa Clara, Calif.

Associated Press

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell held a news conference to address concerns about the way the league has handled domestic violence cases.

"Obviously, we see what's going on with the NFL, but these things are very sensitive in nature when it comes to the victim," Eberling said. □

Bumgarner, Giants silence Pirates 8-0 to advance

WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The San Francisco Giants displayed their greater playoffs knowhow in beating the Pittsburgh Pirates 8-0 in Wednesday's National League wild-card game.

Madison Bumgarner pitched a shutout with 10 strikeouts and Brandon Crawford hit the first grand slam by a shortstop in post-season history.

"That's crazy," Crawford said. "With all the great shortstops that have played before, that's pretty special. I'm happy to be able to do it."

Having silenced a black-clad crowd hoping for another Pittsburgh playoff run, San Francisco will visit Washington in the best-of-five NL Division Series beginning Friday.

Crawford's four-run shot in the fourth inning off Edinson Volquez put the Giants ahead. Bumgarner did the rest as San Francisco won its eighth consecutive post-season game and seventh in a row when facing elimination.

Overpowering one of the NL's best lineups, Bumgar-



San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Madison Bumgarner starts to celebrate as teammates leave the dugout to join him after the last out against the Pittsburgh Pirates in the NL wild-card playoff baseball game Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

ner walked only one batter and threw 79 of 109 pitches for strikes in his latest stellar postseason performance.

"It's fun," Bumgarner said. "If you're not playing, you can be excited and nervous and all that. But if you're pitching in the game you've got

to try to push that all aside and try to make pitches like we did tonight."

Volquez was trying to cap his remarkable comeback season by sending Pittsburgh to the NLDS for the second straight year, but he couldn't match Bumgarner.

He cruised until the fourth inning, when a pair of singles and a walk loaded the bases with no outs.

Crawford followed with a drive that kept carrying all the way to the seats above the 21-foot high right-field wall, silencing the largest crowd in the 13-year history

of PNC Park.

Back in the playoffs after winning the World Series in 2010 and 2012, the Giants are looking to continue their success in even-numbered years.

Pittsburgh, on the other hand, was unable to duplicate last year's victory over Cincinnati in the wild-card game that followed a 21-year playoff drought. Playing before raucous crowds at PNC Park, the Pirates pushed St. Louis to a decisive Game 5 before losing last year's NLDS.

This year, Pittsburgh went 17-9 in September while taking the Cardinals to the final day of the season in an attempt to win the NL Central.

The chase included a decision to start Gerrit Cole in the regular-season finale in the hopes of catching the Cardinals and avoiding the wild-card game.

Cole struck out 12 in a brilliant performance but the Pirates lost, and that meant Cole was unavailable for Thursday's game.

Instead the responsibility fell to Volquez and he could not get it done. □



Europe's Rory McIlroy celebrates winning his match against Rickie Fowler of the US on the 14th hole during the singles match on the final day of the Ryder Cup golf tournament, at Gleneagles, Scotland, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014.

Associated Press

BERNIE MCGUIRE

Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP) — Rory McIlroy found himself nine shots off the lead after a 1-over-par 73 in the first round of the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship on Thursday.

Four days after celebrating a third straight European

Ryder Cup victory, McIlroy could manage just one birdie against two bogeys at Carnoustie, one of the three courses.

"A 73 isn't disastrous," McIlroy said.

Oliver Wilson of England, ranked 791 places below the top-ranked McIlroy, equaled the Carnoustie

McIlroy 9 behind leader after Dunhill first round

course record with an 8-under 64. It's the second straight year he's shot an opening 64 to lead the Dunhill Links. Last year, he finished tied for 59th.

Wilson was in the Ryder Cup in 2008, the last time Europe lost to the U.S., but since 2011 has been competing on the secondary Challenge Tour. He received an invite for this week and sank nine birdie putts, finishing birdie-birdie-birdie-bogey-birdie.

"I shot a 63 a fortnight ago in the Kazakhstan Open, which is our major on the Challenge Tour, so to shoot a 64 here at Carnoustie is very pleasing," Wilson said. "I only dropped one shot, which was disappointing

at 17, but then to birdie the last makes up for that. I'm so delighted to get Carnoustie and the tougher of the three courses out of the way."

Raphael Jacquelin of France, also at Carnoustie, was one shot behind in second after a 65 which included an eagle on the par-5 14th, his fifth hole.

The Irish pair of Padraig Harrington and Shane Lowry shared third with 66s. Harrington, at Carnoustie where he captured the 2007 British Open, bogeyed his closing two holes.

The 55th-ranked Lowry, desperate to earn a maiden Masters invitation by being inside the top-50 at year's end, birdied six of his

opening 10 holes at Kingsbarns course.

McIlroy sent his opening tee shot at Carnoustie way left after hitting the ground about four inches (10 centimeters) behind the ball, but then managed to save par on the course where he won the low amateur medal in the 2007 Open won by Harrington.

"I just felt a little flat coming here after the crowds and everything that we were playing in front of last week," he said.

"I've got Kingsbarns tomorrow, so I will try and post a better number and try and hang in there, and then go to St. Andrews over the weekend, a golf course I've played well on before." □

Column: Great game, but baseball in need of a fix

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Columnist

Opening night of the baseball playoffs provided some great theater, assuming you could stay awake long enough to watch. That the 12th-inning win by Kansas City over Oakland took nearly five hours to play highlights a problem baseball still has to address. Still, the return to small ball in a sport plagued by steroids should be celebrated just as much as the first postseason win by the Royals in 29 years.

But as Bud Selig prepares to take a victory lap on behalf of the owners he represented so well, there are issues he hasn't handled nearly as well. While the game is awash in cash that is making both owners and players richer than ever, it has become increasingly marginalized as a national sport as attendance sags in some cities and television ratings continue to sink.

Incoming commissioner Rob Manfred has a chance to do something about that. As the playoffs begin, here are a few suggestions to help the grand old game:

HIRE VINNY — Clayton Kershaw may get the Dodgers in the World Series all by himself, but how about giving us a treat once they're there? Put Vin Scully in the broadcast booth for Game 1 and let the rest of the nation find out why the



In this Sept. 30, 2014, file photo, Kansas City Royals' Greg Holland celebrates after the Royals' 9-8 victory over the Oakland Athletics in 12 innings in the AL wild-card playoff baseball game in Kansas City, Mo. Baseball has had a history of one-game playoffs dating to Cleveland's 8-3 victory over Boston at Fenway Park to win the 1948 American League pennant.

The Associated Press

86-year-old announcer is so revered in Southern California. Let Scully work alone as always and spin stories, like the time in 1956 he called Don Larsen's perfect game at Yankee Stadium on NBC and was afraid to say much more than "Strike 3" because he had been told the new medium would tell the story. Nothing to lose, because World Series ratings have been sinking for decades now.

SET THINGS STRAIGHT — Selig will be gone in January, which is probably a good thing for baseball. Selig did what commissioners are supposed to do, which is make owners money and get taxpayers to build new ballparks. But he turned a blind eye

to the steroid scandal and will leave office still thinking Barry Bonds is the career home run leader. The new commissioner should on his first day of the job declare any offensive mark set between 1988 (Jose Canseco's heyday) and today void simply because they can't be believed.

ALL STARS — If Manfred still has time on his first day he should abolish Selig's rule giving the league that wins the All-Star game home-field advantage in the World Series. The desperate attempt to make the All-Star game meaningful in some way was a joke from the beginning.

SOLVE THE DH — Either ban the designated hitter or make it mandatory in the

National League, too. No other major league sport plays by different rules in different divisions, but baseball hasn't figured out the DH dilemma since it was introduced in the American League 41 years ago. It's an issue in the postseason when AL pitchers are ill-prepared to hit in NL parks, and NL rosters are not built with a slugger to plug in the middle of the lineup.

FIX INSTANT REPLAY — Baseball was a latecomer to the instant replay party, but got it mostly right in its inaugural season. What needs to go away is the dance that has developed when managers come out of the dugout to stall while getting word whether to appeal a call or not.

LET PETE IN — It's way past time to allow Pete Rose back into the game. Selig's refusal to revisit the subject of the hits king doesn't make sense anymore, if it ever did. Rose has more than served his time for betting on games, yet his only connection to the game remains signing baseballs in Las Vegas. Meanwhile, others who have disgraced baseball by using steroids are working in dugouts and keep appearing on Hall of Fame ballots.

SPEED THINGS UP — In one of his final acts in office, Selig formed a committee to come up with recommendations to speed up games that now top out at an average of more than three hours apiece. No committee needed because it's mostly common sense. Make batters stay in the box; don't let pitchers stroll from the mound. Add to that some batting gloves that don't need to be constantly adjusted, and the game will suddenly be a half hour shorter.

ONE SONG IS ENOUGH — Playing the national anthem before the game is a time-honored tradition that began in baseball and has been embraced by almost every sport. But is there really a need for another song during the seventh-inning stretch to remind us we live in the greatest country on earth? "God Bless America" is a fine tune. □

9 ex-players opt out of NFL concussion litigation

MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Only nine former NFL players have opted out of the proposed class settlement in the NFL concussion litigation, with less than two weeks to go before the deadline, according to a filing Thursday by the lead players' lawyers.

The deadline to opt out is Oct. 14, although some retired players want a delay until after a final court review of the settlement in November.

The NFL has agreed to pay at least \$765 million over 65 years, and more if needed, to compensate men battling brain injuries they link to league concussions. The settlement would cover nearly 20,000 former players, unless they opt out to pursue individual lawsuits against the league.

The largest awards could reach \$1 million to \$5 million for men with severe neurological illnesses, such as Lou Gehrig's disease or Parkinson's disease. But the average ex-player with Al-

zheimer's disease or moderate dementia is expected to get about \$190,000. In a motion Thursday, the lead players' lawyers asked Senior U.S. District Judge Anita Brody to keep the current timelines for settling the case.

They said their clients and their families need the money sooner rather than later.

And they noted that more than 4,000 players or their representatives have registered to receive updates on the settlement.

However, lawyers for other players want the opt-out deadline delayed until after a Nov. 19 fairness hearing in Philadelphia, or perhaps even later. They include the family of the late Dave Duerson, one of dozens of former NFL players diagnosed posthumously with the brain decay known as CTE, or chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

Duerson committed suicide in 2011 at age 50. A family lawyer has called the projected \$2.2 million

award to his survivors "not adequate."

The family of the late San Diego Chargers star Junior Seau is among those planning to opt out. Seau, who committed suicide in 2012 at age 43, was also found to have CTE.

Plaintiffs who opt out of the settlement will presumably have to prove that any brain injuries stemmed from NFL concussions, and not from other football or off-field injuries.

The NFL has about \$10 billion in annual revenues. □

Nadal reaches China Open quarterfinals, criticizes ball

JUSTIN BERGMAN
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Rafael Nadal is back in form on the tennis court — and in his sharp-tongued critiques of the ATP tour.

The second-seeded Spaniard reached his first quarterfinal since capturing his record ninth French Open title in June with a 6-3, 6-4 win over German qualifier Peter Gojowczyk at the China Open on Thursday, then blasted the choice of tennis balls at the tournament.

"The ball is so bad here," Nadal said. "If you throw the ball on the floor, the bounce goes everywhere. Is not a question of winning or losing. I won in Rio (earlier this year) with this ball. It's just that we're competing at the top level of our sport, tennis, and the ball is an important thing."

This isn't the first time the 14-time major winner has complained previously about the ball in question — manufactured by Head.

He also criticized the decision to switch ball manufacturers from tournament to tournament, saying it could result in injuries.

"This week we are playing with one ball. Next week we are playing with a different ball," he said.

"That's dangerous for the shoulder, dangerous for the elbow."

Head is a corporate sponsor of the ATP tour, but each tournament has the right to choose the ball it wants to use from an approved list.

Andy Murray echoed Nadal's complaints about the difficulty of adjusting to a new ball each week.

"If you want to see consistently high level tennis, it's very difficult when you're changing balls from week to week — because they all react differently," he said after his 6-2, 6-2 win over Pablo Cuevas.

"I'm sure if you gave golfers a different ball to play with each week, it would take them time to adjust to that, as well."



Rafael Nadal of Spain return a shot to Peter Gojowczyk of Germany during the China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Stadium in Beijing, China, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014.

Associated Press

Nadal wasn't nearly as critical of his own game in his second match back from a two-month layoff due to a right wrist injury.

He was sharp for much of the match until the final game when he double-faulted and made two unforced errors to give Gojowczyk three break points. He fought them off, however, and closed it out on his fourth match point.

Nadal faces another qualifier in the quarterfinals, Martin Klizan, who advanced when seventh-seeded Ernests Gulbis of Latvia retired with a shoulder injury while trailing 6-2, 3-0.

Murray takes on U.S. Open

champion Marin Cilic, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over Portugal's Joao Sousa.

In the women's draw, top-ranked Serena Williams recovered from a second-set lapse to defeat Lucie Safarova, 6-1, 1-6, 6-2.

After the match, Williams skipped her post-match news conference, releasing a statement saying she had "a little swelling" in her knee.

She wore strapping on the knee during the match she said was preventative.

Simona Halep of Romania won a back-and-forth match against Andrea Petkovic of Germany 7-6

(4), 5-7, 7-6 (1), then immediately withdrew from the tournament with a left hip injury.

The second-seeded Halep took a medical timeout for treatment on her hip after the first set, but returned to complete the match, which featured 17 breaks of serve and 105 combined unforced errors (61 from the Romanian).

"It was a tough match against Andrea today, and I had to fight a lot. I'm happy I was able to win and finish the match in the right way, but I have a hip injury and it would be risky for me to play again tomorrow," Halep said in a statement.

Nishikori beats Young to advance at Japan Open

JACK GALLAGHER
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Fourth-seeded Kei Nishikori beat Donald Young of the United States 6-4, 7-6 (4) on Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Japan Open.

Nishikori, ranked seventh in the world, used his solid baseline game to capitalize on several unforced errors by Young.

With Nishikori leading 4-3 in the tiebreaker, Young double-faulted. Nishikori then ended a rally with a cross-court forehand to set up match point and closed it out when Young hit a return into the net.

Young had a set point in

the second set, but Nishikori held to force the tie-

breaker.

"There were some tough



Kei Nishikori of Japan returns a shot against Donald Young of the United States during their second round match of Japan Open Tennis Championships in Tokyo, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014.

Associated Press

moments in the second set, including when he had the set point," Nishikori said. "It wasn't easy. I just tried to save my serve and rely on my forehand. I think I was returning well."

The 24-year-old Nishikori, who won the Malaysian Open in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday for his third ATP tour title of the season, will take on France's Jeremy Chardy, who ousted seventh-seeded Kevin Anderson of South Africa 6-4, 6-4.

Third-seeded Milos Raonic of Canada booked his spot in the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-3 win over unseeded Jurgen Melzer of Austria.

Raonic hit 11 aces in a match that lasted just 1

hour, 14 minutes.

Raonic will play unseeded Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan, who downed qualifier Michal Przysiezny of Poland 6-4, 7-6 (5).

"I felt I played well," Raonic said. "I dealt with adversity well in the second set after going down a break. I served well and took advantage of my opportunities."

Raonic is on course for a potential meeting with Nishikori in the finals on Sunday. Raonic, ranked eighth, has lost in the final here the previous two years. Nishikori beat him for the title in 2012, while Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina denied him the crown last year.

Can a football stadium be as 'smart' as a phone?

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)

-- It's a tough challenge for the National Football League to entice fans off their comfy couches and into stadiums when ticket prices are almost as high as the sport's TV ratings.

The temptation to stay home goes beyond cost. Equipped with high-definition televisions, Wi-Fi and laptops, tablets and smartphones, fans at home can watch multiple games on Sunday while simultaneously checking their fantasy rosters and celebrating (or taunting) friends via text. So when the owners of the San Francisco 49ers drew up plans for the team's new \$1.3 billion stadium, they tapped the ingenuity surrounding their Silicon Valley home.

The result? Levi's Stadium is home to the first mobile app designed to enhance every aspect of a fan's stadium experience, from steering fans to their parking spots to identifying the least-crowded restrooms. No more waiting in line for a \$10 beer and \$6 hot dog. During the game, fans can order food and drinks that can be delivered directly to their seats or picked up at express windows. Don't agree with that call? Use the app to watch instant replays from four camera



In this Sept. 14, 2014 photo, a fan uses an app on a smartphone to order food and drinks at Levi's Stadium during an NFL football game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Chicago Bears in Santa Clara, Calif.

angles.

Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak says he saw the app's potential as soon as he downloaded it for the 49ers' Sept. 14 regular-season opener.

"Everybody's connection to the outside world now really is their phone, so that has to become part of the (game-day) experience," he said.

Mike Roberts of Martinez, California, appreciated being able to order popcorn from his seat for pickup at an express window

with no lines.

"Everyone living around here is pretty tech savvy," notes Roberts, "so this is the perfect place to try something like this."

The app will ask fans if they want to order food and drinks at certain times during the game, depending on past behavior patterns. And Levi's Stadium greeters now can welcome fans by name after scanning their digital tickets at the gate. Ultimately, the 49ers hope to profit from the digital capabilities by elimi-

nating ticket printing costs and ringing up more concession sales as the team gains a better understanding of fans' individual preferences.

The personal analysis mirrors what Google, Facebook and thousands of other mobile apps have been capitalizing on for years. Such surveillance doesn't bother 49er season-ticket holder Ron Johnson of San Francisco - as long as the app delivers on its promise to learn what he likes.

"I would much rather that they have some idea of what I want to buy so they can put that stuff front and center for me, as opposed to showing me things that I would never purchase," Johnson says.

Although some of the planned features aren't yet complete, roughly one-third of the sold-out crowds at the 49ers' first two regular-season games have used the app in some way. Levi's Stadium is now a massive laboratory that can test technology's ability to change the way large crowds experience athletic events, concerts and possibly even political conventions. If 49ers' CEO Jed York's vision pans out, venues across the U.S. will become as smart as the phones fans tote.

"We think this is going to be the forebear of everything else that comes to stadiums," says York.

The app and its underlying technology were developed by VenueNext, a startup backed by a venture capital fund financed by York and other members of 49ers' management team. York declined to disclose how much money has been invested in VenueNext, but the 49ers so far have spent about \$125 million on the stadium's technology, including a Wi-Fi network capable of keeping up to 70,000 fans online so their movements and desires can be tracked.

Roughly two-thirds of the NFL's 31 stadiums are already wired for online access and the league wants all of them to provide free Wi-Fi by the 2016 season.

The Wi-Fi goal is part of a league-wide push to give fans more reasons to attend games, not stay home.

"Our competition is the couch," says VenueNext founder John Paul.

Other sports teams and concert promoters do offer apps to make their events more convenient and enjoyable. Typically though, those services have been offered in piecemeal fashion: Fans might need one app to order food and another to find their way around. VenueNext is hoping to license its single-app system to other stadiums and arenas. The Atlanta Falcons and Minnesota Vikings already have expressed interest as they build new stadiums, says Paul. VenueNext's system could be useful at convention centers and "wherever you have got a lot of people congregated together for a major event," says longtime technology analyst Tim Bajarin of Creative Strategies.

Anthony Dolezal of Lyons, Illinois, agrees that stadiums need better technology to keep people coming back. Were it not for a free ticket, he wouldn't have come to Soldier's Field for the Chicago Bears last Sunday.

MIT, Twitter team up on \$10M social media project

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) — The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Twitter are teaming up on a \$10 million project to better understand social networks and figure out new ways to benefit from them.

As part of the five-year partnership, Twitter will provide full access to its real-time, public stream of tweets, as well as the archive of every tweet ever posted.

The new Laboratory for Social Machines based at MIT's Media Lab will focus on the development of

new technologies to make sense of patterns across the broad span of mass media and social media.

"The Laboratory for Social Machines will experiment in areas of public communication and social organization where humans and machines collaborate on problems that can't be solved manually or through automation alone," said Deb Roy, an associate professor at the Media Lab who will lead the Laboratory for Social Machines and who also serves as Twitter's chief media scientist.

The goal is not just to understand how people think and use social media but also how networks can be used to increase accountability and transparency and gauge public opinion. "With this investment, Twitter is seizing the opportunity to go deeper into research to understand the role Twitter and other platforms play in the way people communicate, the effect that rapid and fluid communication can have and apply those findings to complex societal issues," CEO Dick Costolo said.

Stocks sputter to positive territory

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market sputtered to an indecisive close Thursday, taking a pause after three straight days of losses. Small company stocks, which have slumped 10 percent from their early-July peak into what's known as a "correction," recovered the most.

Thursday's pause followed what has been tough spell

Investment Advisors, which focuses on investing for high net-worth individuals. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was effectively unchanged on the day, rising one one-hundredth of a point to close at 1,946.17. Technically, the S&P 500's ever-so-slight gain let it avoid a fourth straight day of declines, which would have been the first time that has happened since December 2013.

New York. It fell to \$88.18 at one point, its lowest level since April of 2013. Oil had been on multi-week slide after OPEC announced it would keep oil production at its current levels despite a weakening global economy and a glut in world oil supplies. Lower oil prices are by and large good for the average U.S. consumer because it translates into lower gas prices. But lower oil prices also hurt



Steve Conine, left, and Niraj Shah, center, co-chairmen and co-founders of Boston home furnishings online retailer Wayfair, celebrate their company's IPO, as Conine rings a ceremonial bell to mark the Wayfair's first trade, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

for the market, including the Dow Jones industrial average's 238-point drop Wednesday and a weak September. The buying may have reflected people stepping into the market to take advantage of the recent declines, a trend of "buying on the dip" that has kept the market rising all year despite various geopolitical shocks and worries about Europe's flagging economy.

Stocks had been sharply lower most of the day, only to recover in the last couple of hours of trading. The Dow had been down as much as 130 points.

"People have been waiting a long time to get back in, and I think (the declines in September) created an entry point for the cash on the sidelines to start buying again," said Aaron Jett, an equity strategist at Bel-Air

The Dow fell 3.66 points, or 0.02 percent, to 16,801.05 and the Nasdaq composite rose 8.11 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,430.19.

The Russell 2000 index, which tracks small-company stocks, gained 1 percent, far more than the S&P 500 and the Dow. The Russell entered into what's known as a "correction" on Wednesday, which is when a stock index falls 10 percent or more for a recent high. "People are willing to dip their toes back in," Jett said. The price of crude oil and energy stocks, which had also been through a rough patch, recovered as well. Oil had slumped earlier in the day, helping to drag energy and other stocks lower, but ended up recovering all of its losses by the close of trading. Benchmark U.S. crude oil rose 28 cents to \$91.01 a barrel in

the profitability of energy companies, which make up a large part of the U.S. stock market.

Airline stocks also made a modest recovery after sliding Wednesday. United Continental rose 66 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$46.13, Delta Air Lines was up 38 cents, or 1 percent, to \$35.28 and Jet Blue rose 34 cents, or 3 percent, to \$10.59. The airlines got beaten down Wednesday on fears that the news of the first diagnosed case of Ebola in the U.S. might curtail demand for travel.

"Confirmation of a case of Ebola in the U.S. has joined a growing list of bad news stories with geopolitical tensions in Ukraine and Hong Kong, and growth concerns around China and Europe," said Niall King of CMC Markets in a commentary.



Billionaire Berkshire Hathaway Chairman and CEO Warren Buffett smiles during an interview with Liz Claman on the Fox Business Network in Omaha, Neb. Berkshire Hathaway, owner of businesses ranging from the BNSF railroad to Dairy Queen, Geico insurance and power providers, on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014 announced it is buying the privately-owned auto dealership company Van Tuyl Group.

(AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

Buffett: Berkshire Hathaway buying auto dealer Van Tuyl

JOSH FUNK

AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Warren Buffett is getting into the automobile sales business.

The billionaire's Berkshire Hathaway, owner of businesses ranging from the BNSF railroad to Dairy Queen, Geico insurance and power providers, is buying the privately owned auto dealership company Van Tuyl Group. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Van Tuyl Group says it is the

biggest privately owned

auto dealership group in the U.S. It has 78 independently operated dealerships and more than 100 franchises in 10 states. The company will be renamed Berkshire Hathaway Automotive and be based in Dallas.

Buffett, in an interview on CNBC on Thursday, said that there are huge opportunities for market consolidation in the fragmented auto dealership business.

"This is just the beginning for Berkshire Hathaway Automotive," Buffett said.

This deal is one of a handful of times Buffett has applied his conglomerate's name to one of the businesses it owns. In 2012, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services was created, and the national real estate franchise network continues adding agents at a brisk pace.

A couple of insurance

companies carry the name, including Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance. And earlier this year, the company's utility division was renamed Berkshire Hathaway Energy.

Originally, Berkshire Hathaway was the name of the struggling New England textile company that Buffett took control of in the 1960s. Buffett later closed the textile mills, but he has built Berkshire Hathaway into a conglomerate known for its financial strength.

Van Tuyl Group's current CEO, Larry Van Tuyl, will become chairman of the auto unit. Cecil Van Tuyl, Larry's father, started with a Kansas City Chevrolet dealership in 1955. He was joined in the family business by Larry in 1971, according to the company's website.

Jeff Rachor will become CEO once Larry Van Tuyl transitions to the chairman position.

Buffett said that Van Tuyl's job will be to scout out dealerships for potential acquisitions and determine which ones to pursue. Buffett will provide the funding for any possible transactions.

Berkshire investor and biographer Andy Kilpatrick said this deal looks like it represents another long-term move into a new business for the company.

Softbank invests \$250M in Legendary Entertainment

NEW YORK (AP) — Japanese telecommunications and Internet company SoftBank Corp. is investing \$250 million in media company Legendary Entertainment, known for films such as "The Dark Knight" and "Man of Steel."

The announcement from the companies Thursday comes days after media

reports that SoftBank was in acquisition talks with DreamWorks Animation. But SoftBank and DreamWorks never confirmed the talks, which reportedly have cooled off.

SoftBank will form a joint venture with Legendary that will use Legendary's intellectual property to produce TV and digital prod-

ucts as well as for licensing and merchandising, with a focus on China and India. Softbank said it wants to work with Legendary to bring its film franchises and other products to an "even larger global audience." The investment is expected to close by the end of the month.

Last year, Legendary

signed a five-year marketing and distribution deal with Universal Pictures. It had previously been with Warner Bros.

SoftBank has been building stakes in different industries, including media. It bought 78 percent of Sprint for \$21.6 billion last year.

And it has a 32 percent stake in Chinese e-com-

merce company Alibaba, which just had a blockbuster initial public offering on the New York Stock Exchange.

Shares in DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc., which had risen on the reported SoftBank talks on Monday, retreated \$1.96, or 7.4 percent, to \$24.79 in Thursday afternoon trading.

Sears to raise cash through Canadian ops sale

A. D'INNOCENZIO

M. CHAPMAN

AP Business Writers

HOFFMAN ESTATES, Ill. (AP) — Sears, sorely in need of cash, is selling most of its stake in its Canadian unit to raise as much as \$380 million.

The rights offering to shareholders for the majority of its 51 percent stake in Sears Canada Inc. will give the retailer some breathing room as it heads into the crucial holiday season.

The announcement Thursday is the last in a string of initiatives the company is undertaking to shore up finances. Sears said that it will evaluate its capital structure over the next six to 12 months and may take further action to create more financial flexibility.

The offering comes after Sears failed to find a buyer for the Canadian operations and also the announcement last week that the president and CEO of the unit, Douglas Campbell, would leave at the end of the year.

The company board approved a rights offering of up to 40 million shares of Sears Canada Inc. Sears will still hold about 12 million

shares of Sears Canada, valued at about \$113 million.

Chairman and CEO Edward Lampert plans to fully exercise his subscription rights.

The retailer, based in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, expects at least \$168 million in proceeds from the rights offering in mid-to-late October, with the rest by early November. That, in combi-

nation with estate transactions and a \$400 million short-term loan, will provide Sears Holdings with up to \$1.45 billion in liquidity in fiscal 2014, according to Chief Financial Officer Rob Schriesheim.



The Sears store at Eaton Centre in Toronto opens its doors for business. Sears, sorely in need of cash, is selling most of its stake in its Canadian unit to raise as much as \$380 million. The sale of the majority of its 51 percent stake in Sears Canada Inc. to its own shareholders will give Sears Holdings Corp. some breathing room as it heads into the crucial holiday season.

(AP Photo/Frank Gunn)

ESL Investments Inc., of which Lampert is also chairman and CEO, will do the same.

nation with a \$500 million dividend tied to the spinoff of Lands' End, \$165 million in proceeds from some real

The challenges still facing Lampert are enormous. The company has been cutting costs, reducing inventory

and selling assets to return to profitability. Its biggest albatross remains its stores, which critics say are outdated and shabby.

The company's losses are mounting. For the quarter ended Aug. 2, Sears lost \$573 million, up drastically from \$194 million in the year ago period. That brought the company's losses for the second half of the fiscal year to \$975 million.

Lampert, a billionaire hedge fund investor, combined Sears and Kmart in 2005 about two years after he helped bring Kmart out from under bankruptcy protection.

The company has since faced mounting pressure from nimbler rivals like Wal-Mart Stores and Home Depot.

Like other stores catering to the low- to middle-income customers, Sears is grappling with a slowly recovering economy that's not benefiting all Americans equally.

The median net worth of families in the middle 20 percent of incomes fell 17 percent from 2010 to 2013, according to the Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances.

Emaar Malls shares jump 12 percent on listing

RAZAN ALZAYANI

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Shares in the owner of the Middle East's largest mall jumped a little past 12 percent Thursday in the first day of trading on the Dubai stock exchange after its initial public offering.

Shares in Emaar Malls

Group, which owns The Dubai Mall, peaked at one point during trading to almost 3.5 dirhams (95 cents) from the 2.9 dirhams (78 cents) it listed in its IPO. Shares closed at 3.25 dirhams (88 cents).

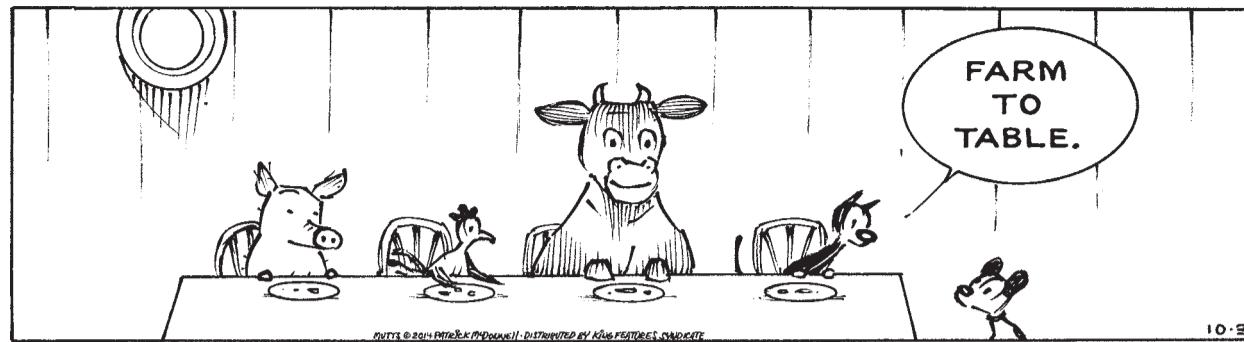
Emaar had sold a 15.4 percent stake in Emaar Malls Group in a \$1.6 billion IPO

last month that was the biggest in Dubai since 2007, just before the emirate was hit by a financial crisis. Emaar Chairman Mohamed Alabbar said there are plans for its hotels unit, Emaar Hospitality, to go public as well. The hospitality group owns Dubai's Armani hotel inside the world's tallest tower,

built by Emaar Properties. "I'll tell you this statement about Emaar Hospitality: It's going to go public when the board of the company decides what percentage, how it's going to be done, all that detail," he said in a news conference at the Dubai stock exchange. The Dubai economy is fu-

eled by strong growth in tourism and real estate. Dubai is pushing to be a global fashion hub and has backed investments in the retail sector. Its luxurious malls are a major draw for tourists and residents looking for a cool escape during long hot summers in Dubai.

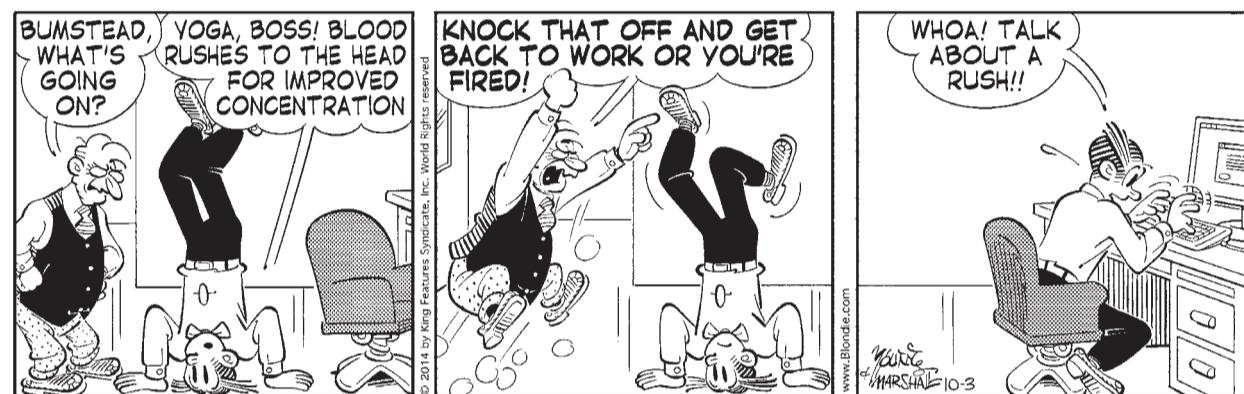
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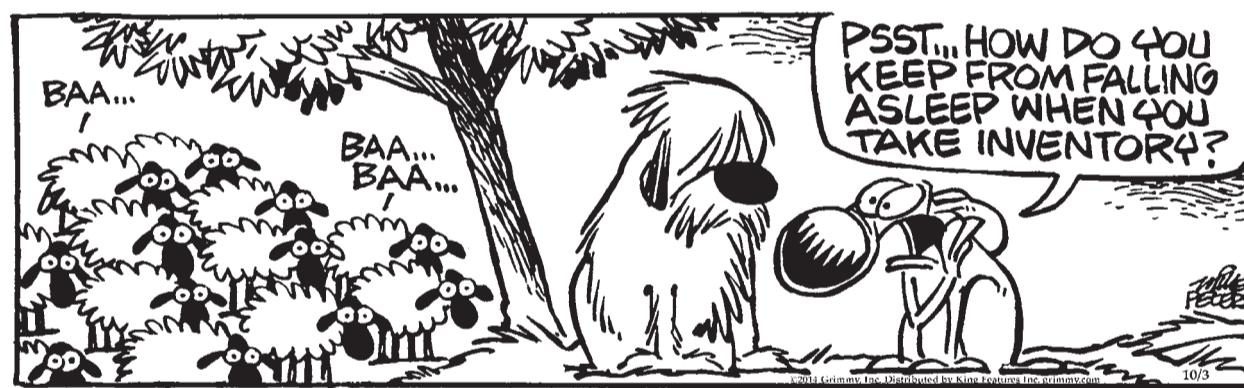
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Blondie



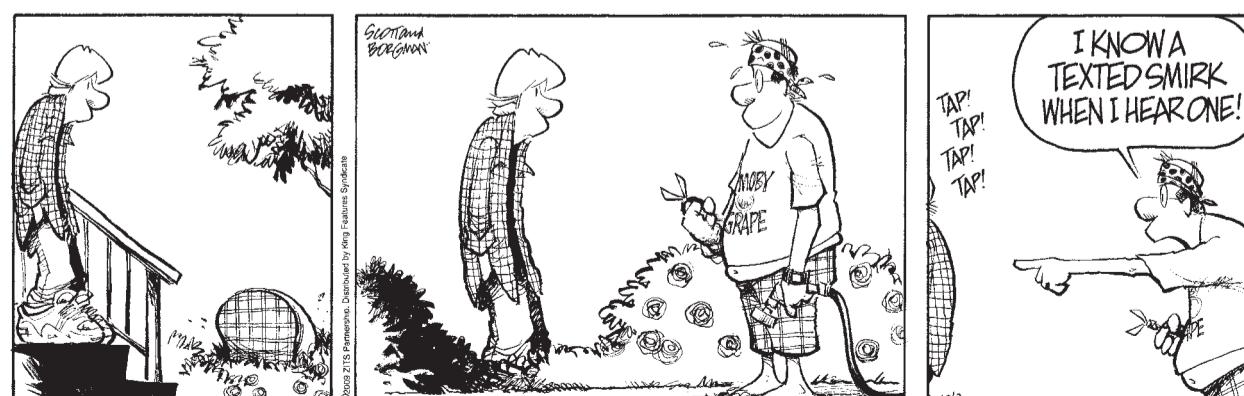
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8		2	4	3
1		1	7	6	
6	8	1		5	
4		7			
9	5	3	2		
7	3	9			1
8	5	6		4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	1	3	8	7	2	5	4	6
6	2	5	3	1	4	9	7	8
8	4	7	9	5	6	2	1	3
1	9	6	2	8	3	4	5	7
4	5	2	6	9	7	3	8	1
7	3	8	5	4	1	6	9	2
5	6	1	4	2	8	7	3	9
3	7	4	1	6	9	8	2	5
2	8	9	7	3	5	1	6	4

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18				19				
20				21		22	23						
				24		25							
26	27	28			29								
30			31	32		33		34	35	36			
37		38	39		40	41							
42			43	44		45	46						
			47	48		49	50						
51	52	53			54				55	56	57	58	59
60			61	62		63							
64		65			66								
67		68			69								

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/3/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

E	R	S	A	P	A	T	F	L	A	N
L	O	I	N	D	A	F	O	E	L	I
M	O	L	E	D	I	T	C	H	O	M
S	T	E	E	P	E	R	K	E	A	T
R	E	D	K	E	E	L	S			
O	C	T	E	T	B	I	D	L	A	B
S	H	E	D	F	U	N	G	E	M	I
C	A	R	T	E	N	T	E	S	D	N
A	F	R	A	I	D	M	O	O	B	E
R	E	A	L	M	T	A	U	P	I	N

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10/3/14

40 out; betrays
43 Weather word
45 Afternoon naps
48 Diminish
50 Most modern
51 Zeal
52 Depart
54 One of Aesop's stories
56 Grassy area for recreation
57 Mayberry kid
58 Paper quantity
59 Cozy rooms
62 Fraternity letter

41 Hymn-singing group
42 Pillow cover
43 Highest point
44 Row of shrubs
45 Lima's nation
46 against; revile loudly
47 Sports building
48 Rocky ridge
49 Benevolent
50 Leftover; remaining
51 Italy's western neighbor
52 Slight coloring
53 Covered wagon driver
54 Wild brawls
55 away; dismisses
56 Certain vote
57 Harvests crops
58 Bird of prey
59 Twelve months
60 Public uprisings
61 Dirt
62 Not straight
63 Tricks
64 Male sheep
65 Manservant
66 Ocean ___; cruise ships
67 Modified
68 Get away
69 Provides with fresh weapons
70 Personal code used to enter a website
71 Evans or Robertson
72 Chop finely
73 Traditional Sioux home
74 Heating chamber
75 Actor James Jones
76 Nuisances
77 Poet Angelou
78 Peepers
79 Faucet problem
80 Pitcher part
81 Publicized
82 Clinton's VP
83 Fib teller
84 Lawn trees
85 Devout

1 Burn slightly

Gun foes plan to match gun lobby spending

ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. gun control groups say this is the year they finally go toe-to-toe with the National Rifle Association and match their foe's imposing election campaign spending for congressional candidates.

Their long-awaited financial parity with the gun lobby, however, underscores the importance of timing in politics. Firearms violence has faded as a top tier public concern, a turnaround from the issue's high profile immediately following the December 2012 massacre of 20 first-graders and six aides at a school in the state of Connecticut.

The subject barely registers in polling that shows voters far more focused on the economy and terrorism. This week's Associated Press-GfK poll showed fewer than 1 percent of likely voters named guns as the nation's top issue — a view that many House and Senate contests reflect.

"I can't think of one race where the gun issue has been prominent in any way," said Democratic pollster John Anzalone, who is involved in two dozen congressional campaigns.

That isn't stopping each side in the gun debate from planning to pump tens of millions of dollars into this fall's races. There are numerous close contests, particularly for seats in a Senate that both parties hope to control next year.

"It's an important issue to segments of voters on both sides" of the gun issue, said Neil Newhouse, a Republican pollster. "You don't need to make a huge difference, you just need to make a little difference be-



Former Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords testifies before a Washington state House panel in Olympia, Wash. Gun control groups say this is the year they finally go toe-to-toe with the National Rifle Association and match their foe's imposing campaign spending for congressional candidates. Americans for Responsible Solutions, headed by Giffords and husband Mark Kelly, the one-time astronaut, has said it will at least match the \$20 million the NRA spent during the entire 2012 campaign, which included a presidential race.

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

cause these races are all so close."

Few doubt that organizations led by billionaire Michael Bloomberg and the wounded former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, a Democrat, will unleash huge sums in the campaigns' closing weeks to back candidates favoring firearms curbs. They're off to modest starts — unlike the NRA.

Barely a month from Election Day in November, the nation's most powerful gun rights group has so far reported spending over \$10 million for ads and other efforts either for or against more than 60 congressional candidates. The efforts include sending NRA field representatives to gun shows to tout favored candidates.

That spending — which is supposed to be done independently and not coordinated with candidates — makes the NRA the ninth

highest spender of more than 300 groups tracked by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, which monitors political spending.

Virtually all NRA spending has been to help Republicans. As of Aug. 31 it reported having \$18.5 million banked and was still raising money.

NRA expenditures include over \$1 million in each of five states — North Carolina, Arkansas, Iowa, Colorado and Louisiana — to help Republican hopefuls capture Senate seats held by Democrats. □

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Foundation Amor pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 / 586-6976

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Scientists see bleached coral in northwest Hawaii

AUDREY McAVOY

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Warm ocean temperatures have caused large expanses of coral to bleach in the pristine reefs northwest of Hawaii's main islands, scientists said Tuesday.

Mass bleaching has occurred at Lisianski atoll, about 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) northwest of Honolulu, said Courtney Couch, a researcher at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. Coral also bleached at Midway, Pearl and Hermes atolls, but not as severely.

Couch called the situation "dire," particularly for Lisianski. In one shallow part of the reef, 90 percent of the coral was bleached, she said. An average of 35 percent of the coral sites observed at the atoll had bleached, she said.

"It's a pretty big deal. Especially after looking at the forecasts for thermal stress over the next month. It's pretty much predicted to stay at this point for the next month and then peter off at the end of October," Couch told reporters after returning from two research trips this summer.

Mass bleaching generally occurs when corals are stressed by warmer-than-normal temperatures. The warm water prompts algae inside the coral to leave, which starves coral and



This 2014 photo provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology shows bleached coral at Lisianski Island in the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument.

turns it white. Algae may return to coral, and the coral may recover, depending on how long the bleaching lasts. Coral starts to die after about eight weeks of high temperature-induced stress, said Couch. This year, Lisianski has had 10 weeks. Midway and Pearl and Hermes atolls have had seven.

Even if corals recover after algae returns, they're still significantly weaker and more vulnerable to disease, experts say.

Couch said some reefs at

Lisianski were still doing well, giving her some hope. Scientists won't be able to tell what happened to the corals until researchers return next summer. This year's higher-than-normal ocean temperatures are caused by El Niño, which is a warming of the

central Pacific that changes climate worldwide, Couch said. "The largest body of warm waters is literally sitting right over Lisianski right now, and it's moving northward as the summer progresses," she said.

The Northwestern Hawai-

Associated Press

ian Islands last had mass-bleaching events in 2004 and 2002. This year's event is only the third mass coral bleaching event recorded in the remote, mostly uninhabited archipelago that makes up the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument.

Randall Kosaki, the monument's deputy superintendent and chief scientist for a 25-day research expedition that returned Tuesday, said the bleaching shows even remote waters are vulnerable to the effects of human activity.

"We're working in one of the most protected marine areas on Earth. And yet we're not immune to human impacts that originate many thousands of miles away, leading to things like marine debris or in this case, global warming and climate change," he said.

Coral reefs provide vital habitats for fish and other marine life. They also help protect shoreline areas during storms.

Nearly 70 percent of all coral under U.S. jurisdiction lies within the Papahanaumokuakea monument.

Study: Monarch butterflies evolved in North America



In this Friday, Oct. 19, 2007 file photo, a monarch butterfly takes flight from a wetland area at Cooks Slough Nature Park in Uvalde, Tex. as they make their yearly journey from summer homes in Canada and northern states to a winter nesting site in central Mexico.

Associated Press

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Monarch

butterflies are famous for migrating from the U.S. and Canada to Mexico for the

winter. Now a surprising study suggests the species itself also started out in North America some 2 million years ago.

Researcher Marcus Kronforst of the University of Chicago said monarchs were widely thought to have evolved in South or Central America instead. But DNA from 80 monarchs sampled from the Americas and as far away as Europe and Australia points to a North American origin, maybe in the southern United States or northern Mexico.

Kronforst also said scientists had thought the monarch arose from a non-migrating ancestor. But the new study concludes the ancestor did migrate.

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Tim Rice wants 'From Here to Eternity' new life

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tim Rice is hoping his musical "From Here to Eternity" doesn't take an eternity to get to Broadway.

The celebrated lyricist is hoping a filmed version of the West End production broadcast this month will generate some interest in America. The ambitious adaptation of James Jones' novel lasted only six months in London but has some great songs and characters.

"To be brutally frank, I don't know what its future is," said Rice by phone this week. "It didn't quite work. We got some nice reviews and there were things about it I was quite pleased with, but it didn't get the public's imagination."

Rice, whose credits include "Evita," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "The Lion King," thinks the new show might find a more fertile home in America, where it's set and where the events depicted in it have more weight. He said he's already gotten some interest from people who want to back it financially.

Set in the days before the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941,



In this image released by Matt Ross Public Relations, the cast appears in a scene from "From Here To Eternity."

Associated Press

the dark story follows two U.S. soldiers in Hawaii who fall in love with the wrong women. A 1953 film version is perhaps most famous for its scene of Deborah Kerr and Burt Lancaster kissing on a beach.

The musical stays truer to the darker original novel, which also explores homosexuality, brutality in the service and has plenty of expletives. Stuart Brayson

supplied the songs and Bill Oakes wrote the story. Rice wrote the lyrics and is a producer.

"It's very hard these days to get a show off the ground unless you've got something already that resonates with the public, be it a hit record, a recent hit film or a star. And we didn't have any of those things," said Rice. "It's very difficult to get a brand new musical

off the ground. We nearly did it."

Americans will get a chance to see the attempt when Fathom Events and Omaverse broadcast "From Here to Eternity" in 460 movie theaters nationwide on Oct. 2, Oct. 5 and Oct. 9. The show was recorded over two nights from the Shaftesbury Theatre this spring.

They'll see actors Robert

Lonsdale, Siubhan Harrison, Darius Campbell, Rebecca Thornhill and Ryan Sampson perform under the direction of Tamara Harvey. The score includes the lovely torch song "Run Along Joe," the foot-stomping "Ain't Where I Wanna Be Blues" and the pitch-dark ballad "I Love the Army."

Rice said he's hoping on another production because the work has a strong story and songs: "I think if we can just put the other parts of the jigsaw back a bit more strongly, then I think we have a chance in America."

One key piece is a new director who can make the story "come alive," said Rice. "What we need is a director — a director who gets it, who likes the basic songs and likes the story and can think of a new way of doing it."

Rice said he and Brayson have several songs in reserve and might add new ones, should they be needed. He added that he's open to any suggestions for changes—to a degree. "If somebody said, 'Cut "I Love the Army" I would almost certainly say, 'Take a walk!' But, in theory, I'm open to suggestions." □

Miss Universe to take place in factious Miami

CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press

DORAL, Florida (AP) — In the world of beauty pageants, Venezuela is queen. Donald Trump's announcement Thursday that the upcoming Miss Universe pageant will be in Miami, home to the largest Venezuelan population in the United States, brought a roomful of applause. But it could also bring a contentious mixture of politics and pageantry.

Three of the last six Miss Universe titles have gone to Venezuelan contestants. □

An entire industry there prepares young women to compete.

The majority of Venezuelans in Florida fiercely oppose the Venezuelan government. In the past, the current Miss Venezuela has been scrutinized by the opposition for her viewpoints. One Florida paper once called her a "Miss Venezuela with a chavista heart," referencing late President Hugo Chavez.

Miami's Venezuelans said they aren't planning protests but politics will inevitably come up. □



Donald Trump, right rear, sits near Miss Universe, Gabriela Isler, of Venezuela, speaks during a news conference, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014, in Doral, Fla.

Associated Press

'Twilight' to be revived in Facebook short films

NEW YORK (AP) — "Twilight" will be raised from the dead for a series of short films on Facebook.

Two years after the last film of the popular movie franchise, Lionsgate announced late Tuesday that Stephenie Meyer's world of vampires and werewolves will be revived for a short film competition. The Women in Film organization will help lead a campaign to develop and produce a series of shorts directed by aspiring female filmmakers. At least five young directors will be chosen to direct shorts based on characters from "Twilight." □



In this Jan. 17, 2014 file photo, actress Kristen Stewart smiles at the premiere of the film "Camp X-Ray" during the 2014 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

Seth Green adds 'Ninja Turtles' to his to-do list

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It was Seth Green's destiny to join the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" team.

This actor-writer-producer-director is unrivaled for popping up all over the place. So why not here? After all, he's the 40-year-old showbiz ace who, as a youngster, played Woody Allen's childhood doppelganger in the 1987 film "Radio Days" and went on to appear in the "Austin Powers" spoofs. He co-created the Adult Swim sketch comedy series "Robot Chicken." He voices Chris Griffin, the deranged teen on Fox's animated hit "Family Guy." He starred in the NBC sitcom "Dads" last season. His latest film, "The Identical," opened last month.

Now, with the start of Season 3 of "Ninja Turtles" (Friday, 8 p.m. EDT, Nickelodeon), Green has claimed the job of voicing Leonardo, leader of this quartet of "heroes in a half shell" who go by the names of Renaissance artists.

Green brings a lifetime of devotion to the task. He has followed the Ninja Turtles franchise since its comic-book birth three decades ago. Turtle Power, he says, represents everything a kid



In this Sept. 2014 photo released by Nickelodeon, actor Seth Green appears in a recording studio in Burbank, Calif.

Associated Press

loves: "brotherhood and friendship and justice and ninjas!"

But just as he has matured through the years, so has his perspective on the Turtles (which would spawn an empire of TV series, video games, toys and other merchandise, and feature films, including, of course, this summer's live-action blockbuster).

"Early on, I related to Raphael, the wild one, or to Mikey, because he's the childish one," says Green.

"But Leo is a really complicated character, because he is tasked with being the paternal figure for these brothers.

He has a different level of responsibility, and I like being able to bring that kind of gravity to it."

If he came to this shell game already steeped in the Turtles ethos, there was yet another reason why this seemed like a marriage made in heaven: the woman Green is married to. He explains that Clare

Grant, his wife of four years, has long nurtured a secret crush on Leonardo.

It's a secret she confided by chance to a "Ninja Turtles" executive producer a while back, which, according to Green, may have set in motion his enlistment to step in for Jason Biggs, the voice of Leonardo for this animated series' first two seasons.

So, to sum up: Green now gets to fulfill a lifelong dream while also bringing to life his wife's fantasy

heartthrob.

"Thank goodness for her hilarious romantic proclivities," he says with a laugh. Of course, "Ninja Turtles" is far from the sole item on his to-do list. He continues with "Family Guy." In December, he begins work on a new season of "Robot Chicken."

And he's developing a film project that he hopes to direct, which led to his holding up in a Las Vegas hotel not long ago to pound out a script.

"I'm not interested in gambling," he declares, "but Vegas is the only place in the continental United States where you can lock your door for days and nobody worries about you. It's a really great place to get work done."

Green, who is shortish with red hair and an impish smile, learned at a tender age to be a self-starter. Growing up in Philadelphia, he found his passions didn't mesh with his peers'.

"No one in my school wanted to sing and dance and be on TV," he recalls. "They all wanted to fix cars and play sports."

Even so, he landed his first role at 7. But all too soon he began to realize he didn't look like the little kid from "Radio Days."

Family gives Lady Antebellum new outlook

KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Before singer Charles Kelley and his Lady Antebellum bandmates started writing songs for their new album, Kelley's wife advised him to take a few chances rather than stick to the minimal, mellow sound that dominated the trio's last two albums.

"She was like, 'If I hear another one of these songs from you ... I'm going to be a little bored by it,'" Kelley said of the conversation with his wife, Cassie. "And I was like, 'That really hurts my feelings.' But then I stepped back and I was like, 'You know, she's right.'"



In this June 4, 2014 file photo, members of Lady Antebellum, from left, Dave Haywood, Hillary Scott and Charles Kelley arrive at the CMT Awards in Nashville, Tenn. The band's latest release, "747," was released this week.

Associated Press

Others were having that same epiphany about the future of the Grammy-winning trio, who catapulted to stardom in 2009 with the multiplatinum pop hit "Need You Now."

Hillary Scott has a new perspective, thanks to her 1-year-old daughter, Eisele. "I'm about to watch my daughter see the world for the first time, every single day," Scott said of her frame of mind as they started recording their fifth album, "747," released Tuesday. "Let's make this fun." They amped up their sound by switching to producer Nathan Chapman, who helped Taylor Swift cross over from country to pop and also produced Lady

A's last single, "Compass," from their 2013 album, "Golden."

The trio — rounded out by Dave Haywood — continued their pattern of recording with a live band to capture the energy in the studio, but then Chapman would stay up all hours of the night adding embellishments like loops, dubs and even a backward guitar lick on one song, "Sounded Good at the Time."

"We felt like we had had a little bit of a slowdown period and weren't the new kids on the block anymore," Kelley said. "And now you have to fight to stay relevant. The sound of country music had changed a little bit, much more rocking."

The Cult Deficit



ROSS DOUTHAT

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Like most children of the Reagan era, I grew up with a steady diet of media warnings about the perils of religious cults - the gurus who lurked in wait for the unwary and confused, offering absolute certainty with the aftertaste of poisoned Kool-Aid. From the 1970s through the 1990s, from Jonestown to Heaven's Gate, frightening fringe groups and their charismatic leaders seemed like an essential element of the American religious landscape.

Yet we don't hear nearly as much about them anymore, and it isn't just that the media have moved on. Some strange experiments have aged into respectability, some sinister ones still flourish, but overall the cult phenomenon feels increasingly antique, like lava lamps and bell bottoms. Spiritual gurus still flourish in our era, of course, but they are generally comforting, vapid, safe - a Joel Osteen rather than a Jim Jones, a Deepak Chopra rather than a David Koresh.

Twice in the last few months, I've encountered writers taking note of this shift, and both have made a similar (and provocative) point: The decline of cults, while good news for anxious parents of potential devotees, might actually be a worrying sign for Western culture, an indicator, not only of religious stagnation, but of declining creativity writ large. The first writer is Philip Jenkins, a prolific religious historian, who argues that the decline in "the number and scale of controversial fringe sects" is both "genuine and epochal," and something that should worry more mainstream religious believers rather than comfort them. A wild fringe, he suggests, is often a sign of a healthy, vital center, and a religious culture that lacks for charismatic weirdos may lack "a solid core of spiritual activism and inquiry," as well.

The second writer is Peter Thiel, the PayPal co-founder, venture capitalist and controversialist, who includes an interesting aside about the decline of cults in his new book, "Zero to One" - officially a book of advice to would-be entrepreneurs, but really a treatise on escaping what he regards as the developed world's 40-year economic, technological and cultural malaise.

The implications of Jenkins' argument are specific to religion. Cults can be dangerous, even murderous, but they can also be mistreated and misjudged (as Koresh's followers were, with fatal consequences);

moreover, spiritual experiments led by the charismatic and the zealous are essential to religious creativity and fruitful change. From the Franciscans to the Jesuits, groups that looked cultlike to their critics have repeatedly revitalized the Catholic Church, and a similar story can be told about the role of charismatic visionaries in the American experience. (The enduring influence of one of the 19th century's most despised and feared religious movements, for instance, is the reason the state of Utah now leads the United States on many social indicators.)

Thiel's argument is broader: Not only religious vitality but the entirety of human innovation, he argues, depends on the belief that there are major secrets left to be uncovered, insights that existing institutions have failed to unlock (or perhaps forgotten), better ways of living that a small group might successfully embrace.

This means that every transformative business enterprise, every radical political movement, every truly innovative project contains some cultish elements and impulses - and the decline of those impulses may be a sign that the innovative spirit, itself, is on the wane. When "people were more open to the idea that not all knowledge was widely known," Thiel writes, there was more interest in groups that claimed access to some secret knowledge or offered some revolutionary vision. But today, many fewer Americans "take unorthodox ideas seriously," and while this has clear upsides - "fewer crazy cults" - it may also be a sign that "we have given up our sense of wonder at secrets left to be discovered."

Thiel's view of our overall situation is hotly contested, not surprisingly, on his own Silicon Valley turf. The Internet is cluttered with debates (some friendly, some less so) between Thiel and his peers over whether innovation has actually slowed down, whether recent technological progress is actually as disappointing as he frequently suggests.

But in the intellectual realm, the stagnation he identifies seems readily apparent, since whole swaths of political, ideological and religious terrain that fascinated earlier generations have been mostly written off in ours. As Mark Lilla noted in a recent *New Republic* essay, it's not just that alternatives - reactionary, radical, religious - to managerial capitalism and social liberalism are no longer much embraced; it's that our best and brightest no longer seem to have any sense of why anyone ever found alternatives worth exploring in the first place.

Perhaps the sacrifice is worth it, and a little intellectual stagnation is a reasonable price to pay for fewer cults and Communists.

Or maybe the quest for secrets - material or metaphysical, undiscovered or too-long forgotten - is worth a little extra risk. □



What Islamic State Could Teach the West



NICHOLAS KRISTOF

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As we fight the Islamic State and other extremists, there's something that President Barack Obama and all of us can learn from them. For, in one sense, the terrorists are fighting smarter than we are.

These extremists use arms to fight their battles in the short term, but, to hold ground in the long run, they also combat Western education and women's empowerment. They know that illiteracy, ignorance and oppression of women create the petri dish in which extremism can flourish.

That's why the Islamic State kidnapped Samira Salih al-Nuaimi, a brave Iraqi woman and human rights lawyer in Mosul, tortured her and publicly executed her last week. That's why the Taliban shot Malala Yousafzai, then 15 years old, after she campaigned for educating girls. And that's why Boko Haram kidnapped hundreds of schoolgirls in northern Nigeria and announced that it would turn them into slaves. In each case, the extremists recognized a basic truth: Their greatest strategic threat comes not from a drone but from a girl with a book. We need to recognize, and act on, that truth as well.

For similar reasons, the financiers of extremism have invested heavily in fundamentalist indoctrination. They

have built Wahhabi madrassas in poor Muslim countries like Pakistan, Niger and Mali, offering free meals, as well as scholarships for the best students to study in the Gulf.

Shouldn't we try to compete? Shouldn't we use weapons in the short run, but try to gain strategic advantage by focusing on education and on empowering women to build stable societies less vulnerable to extremist manipulation?

The U.S. airstrikes have slowed the advance of the Islamic State and averted a genocide against the Yazidi population in Iraq, but it's very difficult to win a war from the air.

That's why the Taliban still thrives in Afghanistan after 13 years of U.S. air attacks.

Unfortunately, we're not playing the long game, as the extremists are. We are vastly overrelying on the military toolbox and underemploying the education toolbox, the women's empowerment toolbox, the communications toolbox. We're tacticians; alas, the extremists may be better strategists.

It's not a question of resources, because bombs are more expensive than books.

The U.S. military campaign against the Islamic State will cost at least \$2.4 billion a year and perhaps many times that, according to an estimate from the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments in Washington.

In contrast, Obama seems to have dropped his 2008 campaign promise to establish a \$2 billion global fund for education. And the United States gives the Global Partnership for Education, a major multilateral effort, less in a year than what we spend weekly in Syria and Iraq.

This is an area where Congress seems more forward-looking than the president because Congress regularly appropriates substantially more for basic education overseas than Obama requests. Bipartisan legislation, the Education for All Act, would elevate the issue; let's hope that Obama gets behind it.

No one is naive enough to think that education is a panacea.

Al-Qaida leaders, including Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, have been university educated. Iraq, Syria and Lebanon were all reasonably well-educated and supportive of gender equality by regional standards, yet all have been torn apart by civil wars.

Still, the historical record of the last half-century is that education tends to nurture a more cosmopolitan middle class and gives people a stake in the system. In Hong Kong today, we're seeing how educated youth often behave. They are demanding democracy, but peacefully. Girls' education seems to have more effect than boys' education, partly because educated women have markedly fewer children. The result is lower birthrates and less of a youth bulge in the population, which highly correlates to civil conflict.

I support judicious airstrikes in the short term against the Islamic State, but that should be only one part of a policy combating extremism. And a starting point should be to ensure that the 3 million Syrian refugees mostly in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon - especially girls - can get schooling. Right now, many are getting none, and one study published last month found that Syria had the worst reversal in educational attainment in recent history, with enrollment rates for Syrian children in Lebanon less than half the level of those in sub-Saharan Africa.

Yet the UNICEF request for education funding for Syrians was only 40 percent financed as of mid-August. If we miss this opportunity, those children will be tinder for future wars and extremism, and we'll be stuck dropping bombs for generations to come.

So let's learn from the extremists - and from those brave girls themselves who are willing to risk their lives in order to get an education. They all understand the power of education, and we should, too. □



A futuristic look by Iris van Herpen, during the Dutch designer's spring summer 2015 fashion show in Paris. Van Herpen, the recipient of the 2014 Andam Award, uses materials like acrylic and acetate as much as leather and tulle, working outside the usual scope of ready-to-wear fashion.

(Valerio Mezzanotti/The New York Times)

The Future? Don't Get Ahead Of Yourself

Matthew Schneier

© 2014 New York Times

PARIS - What does the future look like? Many of France's top prognosticators, and those with the funds and the institutions to support those predictions, came together here last week at the palatial Hôtel Potocki. The occasion was the 25th anniversary of the Andam Award, an annual prize of cash and mentorship that has given a boost to designers as various as Martin Margiela, the inaugural recipient; Giles Deacon and Alexandre Mattiussi of Ami. Mattiussi, the menswear designer, won in 2013.

"I was thinking that last year it was me, it was Ami," he said as he broke away from a crowd of photographers snapping his picture and headed into dinner. "So much has changed in a year."

Case in point: The red

beanie he had been wearing for the photos, his totemic accessory, was spangled in Swarovski crystal. The company is one of the handful of Andam sponsors that offers its wares and services to the winners.

Andam's net is a wide one. It favors no one style or aesthetic, which can lead to surprises both good and odd. It's not the surest place to find the future, but it is often worth a look. The finalists for this year's prize included prominent names and lesser-knowns: Fausto Puglisi, the exuberant Italian maximalist, and Iris van Herpen, a spectral Dutch-woman with a sculptural, science-lab approach to design, represent both the highest profile and the most oppositely inclined.

Van Herpen ultimately took the prize, which was announced in July. She spent the dinner at a table with François-Henri Pinault, the

chief executive of the Kering Group and her mentor for the next two seasons; Nadja Swarovski; Pierre Bergé; and Andam's founder, Nathalie Dufour. At other tables sat Pierre-Yves Roussel, the charismatic chief executive of the LVMH fashion group, and John Demsey, the group president of the Estée Lauder Cos. All have a professional interest in identifying who's on next.

It was a night of celebration, then back to work. This week, both Puglisi and van Herpen staged shows.

Puglisi is in Paris to present the collection he designs for Emanuel Ungaro. (His own collection is shown in Milan.) His models, beneath their plastic floral Stephen Jones headpieces and a lurid smear of club makeup, wore flowing jersey gowns in electric colors and abstracted florals in lace devoré that resem-

bled smudged newsprint. "I would like people looking at this to say, 'Wow,'" Puglisi said backstage. "It's fun. You can like it or not, but it's fun."

It's a vision of the future rooted in retro and supercharged for the present. Puglisi recalled his own "wow" moments watching Versace and Ungaro shows as a child in Sicily, and leaned hard on an interpretation of the Ungaro archive. But it had a ferocity - its volume dialed up still more by Arianne Phillips, best known as Madonna's stylist - sometimes at odds with Ungaro's finesse.

Puglisi's are visceral pleasures; van Herpen's, cerebral ones. A trip to CERN in Switzerland, the site of the Large Hadron Collider, inspired a collection, which was based on the movement of magnetic fields.

Van Herpen uses materials like acrylic and acetate

as much as leather and tulle, working with an architect and an artist to create pieces that are virtuosic and inventive but also somewhere outside the usual scope of fashion, at least in terms of something you might wear day to day. Her most elaborate show-pieces are effectively giant cages of translucent webbing that hover around the body. Translating the vision of these pieces into commercially viable ready-to-wear clothes is the challenge she faces: effectively, how to pull her work from the future back into the present without compromise. Leather mesh dresses, replicating the look of her acrylics and held together with what appeared to be tiny stakes of the stuff, came a way toward overcoming it, though they tamped down some of the magic of her more esoteric work. □